

[6th March 1926]

I

ASSENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR TO THE AMENDMENTS
TO STANDING ORDER No. 3.

The hon. the President announced that the amendments to Standing Order No. 3, passed at the meeting of the Council held on the 12th February 1926, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 5th March 1926.

II

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1926-27—*cont.*

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.]

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Before the general discussion on the budget is resumed, may I appeal to hon. Members to observe very strictly the time-limit so as to allow as many members, as are willing, to take part in the debate? May I specially appeal to those members who are going to make written speeches to be merciful to those who are capable of making more debating speeches? I believe their point will be gained if their written speeches are entered in the proceedings of the House. In return I would ask them to read illustrative extracts from their written speeches.”

* Mr. L. C. GURUSWAMI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, in placing the budget for 1926-27 before this Council the hon. Mr. T. E. Moir feels sorry in not being able to give a more attractive picture of our financial position during that year. However he has been able to find money for the nation building departments and it is gratifying to note that elementary education will have some substantial impetus given to it in the coming year. Should the creation of the new elementary schools give facility to the depressed classes also without any distinction of caste or creed, I might congratulate the Government on this item of expenditure. But if the ten lakhs of rupees more than the revised estimate for the year 1925-26 are to be spent as usual perpetuating the existing difference between the caste Hindu boys and non-caste Hindu boys, I would request that a big slice of it ought to be cut off for the use of the Labour Department, as the work of that department is still in its infancy and as more districts await the introduction of Labour offices.

“ No doubt the Labour Department gets an increase for the betterment of the depressed classes for which I feel thankful to the Government. But I wish to point out that the provision made is very small when compared with the work that yet remains to be done. I might say that the dumb folks have not even the standing space in the onward march of education and as such some more efforts are to be made to uplift those classes of people and the Government is the only prop on which they depend.

“ There seems to be a necessity for the appointment of a committee to find out the ways and means to speedily and effectively improve the very low and backward condition of the depressed classes in this Presidency and also to explore all possible means of educating the depressed classes. Further all that could be done, even as the deficit budget goes, has not been done. I have to complain that the rules for levying fees from the pupils of the depressed classes are not conducive to attract them to schools. The rigid iron rule of Grant-in-Aid Code is such that the depressed classes could not find

6th March 1926]

[Mr. L. C. Guruswami]

admission in such schools which are willing to admit them, because of financial losses to the management. If sufficient provision is made to compensate for the loss by admitting them, they might find easy admissions. I suggest that this class of pupils should be exempted from fees altogether when poverty certificate is produced and half the rates should be levied from all the pupils belonging to the non-caste boys without any poverty certificate. I hope the hon. the Minister will give his sympathetic consideration to this matter.

“Taking the Labour Department itself, provision is made to extend the operations of this department to two more districts only. This means that at this rate it would take some years for the Labour Department to exercise its functions throughout the Presidency. In the face of a deficit budget one should hesitate to demand for more allotments. But taking into consideration the provision made for strengthening the staff of several departments they should embolden one to claim more money for the Labour Department too. I may even go to the extent of saying that the number of increases in several departments may be gradually done away with for the very reasons stated by the Finance Member that the time-scale provision of establishment already embarrasses the Government. I mean that these additions to the existing establishments may be checked as far as possible and a saving may be found for the purpose of nation-building departments. The Labour Department even as it is needs pruning and cutting. The high ideal of having honorary workers in these departments will be the most welcome change. But as it is there are some non-votable items and barring them every effort should be made to replace them by honorary men. I have been under the impression that as far as the city of Madras is concerned where we have the guidance of Labour Commissioner, no additional officer is needed in the person of a District Labour officer. The number of schools managed directly by the Labour officers are very few and they can be safely entrusted into the hands of honorary managers and correspondents as each school has not the encumbrance of big establishment and as each school is inspected by the Educational Department.

“One more item of expenditure I desire to comment upon. Of the many industrial institutions owned by Government that relating to the leather works seems to be unproductive of any tangible results. But the cost which it entails is very great and a very great scrutiny over this department is imperative. From G.O. No. 1500, dated 19th October 1925, I infer that the instructional side is an unsatisfactory feature and the decline in the number of applications for admissions seems to show no sign of improvement as there are no prospects for the out-going students because of the depressed conditions of the leather industry. It is true that the Leather Industry Committee has recommended the opening of new classes for the training of tannery operatives and maistris and the Government considered it worth while to give it a trial. I am of opinion that the circumstances have changed and another committee should shortly be appointed to go thoroughly into the question of not only spending more money on continuing the department itself but also on the research side of the institution. It is incumbent, I believe, on the Government to examine whether the leather trade has any prospect of improving at all and whether we can go

[Mr. L. C. Guruswami]

[6th March 1926]

on spending large sums of money on it and whether it would not be worth while, in case we want to continue the department, to open a Sales department on a small scale at least."

* **MR. C. VENKATARANGAM NAYUDU** :—"I was listening carefully to a number of speeches made by my hon. Colleagues from all parts of the House, some extolling the hon. the Finance Member for presenting at least a true picture of the actual financial position of the province, some expressing disappointment at another deficit budget, some regretting the extravagance in expenditure which has increased our bills to the tune of nearly four crores during the last five years of the Reforms regime, some doubting the competence of the Ministers to fight for the right of the people of the province, and some suggesting reforms of administrative detail here and there to make the life of the people somewhat more bearable, but in all these lengthy discourses which covered a wide ground, I failed to notice any realization on the part of any of my hon. Colleagues as to the causes that have operated to bring about this deplorable state of things. We are living, Sir, under a system of administration, the like of which, so far as constitutional text-books go, has never been experimented upon in any part of the civilized world—I mean the dyarchic system of administration—with its concomitant division of functions into Transferred and Reserved, the Reserved half being irresponsible to the legislature and the Ministers in charge of the Transferred half being impotent to do anything to the people of the country without the sympathy and support of the irresponsible half, with further safeguards by way of extraordinary powers being vested in the Governor to turn down any proposal emanating from the legislature, that is not to the taste of a prestige-ridden and power-intoxicated bureaucracy, which is, with some honourable exceptions, bent upon maintaining its hold on this country. It is this novel system of administration that has brought in its train all the manifold evils so picturesquely described by my hon. Colleagues in this House; and, so long as this system of Government continues, it is impossible to expect any kind of improvement in the administration. It is a painful realization of this position that has induced those of the Congress to press forward proposals to mend this system. But what is the attitude of the Government in regard to this national demand put forward by the chosen representatives of the people in the Legislative Assembly. It has been brushed aside with contempt and any resort to the well-known constitutional doctrine of 'Grievances before supplies' will, the hon. the Members of the Governor-General's Council threaten, result in the automatic restoration of rejected grants by the exercise of autocratic powers by His Excellency the Governor-General. It may be argued that this is an All-India problem, having no relation whatsoever with provincial administration, but it has to be admitted that here also such an autocratic power is exercised in a miniature form and nothing could be done to help the people. As my hon. friend Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar pointed out in the course of his observations yesterday, even the minor cuts made by this House last year have been restored by the exercise of the extraordinary powers vested in the Governor. It is now nearly seven years since the Joint Committee of Parliament recommended land revenue legislation and yet we are seriously told that the matter is still under correspondence with the Government of India and no guarantee could be given as to the exact time when legislation would be brought forward. Meanwhile, resettlements are going on as merrily as ever, increasing the

6th March 1926]

[Mr. C. Venkatarangam Nayudu]

burden on the already over-burdened ryots by leaps and bounds. Amendments to the Stamp Act and Court Fees Act were made increasing the duty as a temporary measure, and yet the amended Act continues to disfigure the Statute Book, making litigation and transactions costly: the prohibition cry that is rampant in the country is heeded not and the Minister, impotent to do anything against the wishes of the Reserved half, rules it out as beyond the pale of practical politics. The administration of Local Self-Government has become demoralized beyond redemption. Powers of nomination vested in the Minister to protect the interests of the minorities are being grossly abused to serve the party ends and, as an instance in point, I can refer here to the nomination of three members of a particular community to the district board in my own district in which the particular community is already over-represented. The power and prestige vested in the Ministers is being utilized to consolidate the position of their own party. The Development Department continues to function in the same old undeveloping fashion with this difference that while in the pre-Reform era they were not used for any party purposes, they are now utilized to strengthen the party in power. The Agriculture Department continues yet to be an white elephant without giving any practical help to the agriculturists; the Education Department under the hon. the Excise Minister in spite of all his advertisement still has to tackle seriously the problem of primary education. The Ministers are impotent to press the claims of their own departments for more liberal grants, in spite of the declaration made expressly and impliedly by responsible authorities that a major portion of the remissions in the provincial contribution will go to meet the claims of the nation-building departments. The administration of the Forest Department continues to be as unsympathetic as ever to the poor ryots. The treatment of prisoners, especially political prisoners, is far from satisfactory. To crown this all a responsible Minister has the audacity to bring forward in this year of Grace 1926 a Bill to further restrict the liberties of local bodies.

"I can go on multiplying instances, but the picture I have drawn, I trust, is sufficient to convince any reasonably-minded person that there is absolutely no chance of salvation so long as this system of administration continues. It is the realization of this truth that has induced the voters of the two districts in which bye-elections were held recently to support the Congress nominees in preference to candidates boomed and supported by the Ministerial party with all the resources at its command. As one recently returned on this programme I feel it my duty to point out that so long as the system of dyarchy with a subservient Ministry depending upon the support of the Executive for its continuance in office disfigures the Statute Book, the position of the masses of the population of this country would become more and more difficult and intolerable. It is this aspect of the matter to which I request my hon. Colleagues at least in this side of the House to turn their attention to see if time has not come, if it has not already come, to make a combined and determined effort to take such steps as would wrench real power from unwilling hands, rather than continue to be willing partners to the enactment of this farce of responsible Government which will lead nowhere."

* Mr. C. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"Sir, the hon. the Finance Member 11-15
deserves all praise for the lucidity and clearness with which he presented the a.m.
budget for the year 1926-27. It cannot be said that this is a gloomy

[Mr. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar]

[6th March 1926]

budget; the increase in the ordinary revenues comes to about 17 lakhs, Land Revenue as usual contributing more than 50 per cent though the income from the Excise Revenue had a further fall of about one and a quarter lakhs. People may not feel much for the loss of liquor income because of the inauguration of the new policy for the reduction of the drink evil and the promotion of sobriety to some extent amongst the people who were addicted to evil habits of drink. The Land Revenue, Excise and Stamps form the bulk of our income representing nearly 90 per cent of the receipts. But unfortunately the main sources of revenue are subject to the vagaries of north-east and south-west monsoons. Sometimes we get too much rain, sometimes too little, seriously affecting our income. One standing feature of our budget is that we cannot expect enough revenue to meet our expenditure. As we cannot limit our expenditure to the available revenue, we are obliged to borrow from year to year increasing our Provincial debts. While the resources are limited, the expenditure is rapidly progressing. The introduction of time-scale of pay for the establishments and the provision for pension and commutation of pension largely contribute to the progressively increasing expenditure. But for the remission of the Provincial contribution of Rs. 57 lakhs granted by the Government of India, we should be much worse. Unless and until the Provincial contribution is wiped out, there will be no chance of making adequate provision for the needs of all items required for good administration in the province. In spite of the difficulties of finding funds for the normal growth of nation-building departments, it is a matter of some satisfaction that it was possible to provide about 72 lakhs for new schemes, Education getting more than 14 lakhs out of this. The provision made for granting medical relief to rural areas cannot be considered quite satisfactory. Provision made for grants to local bodies for roads and bridges is not enough; but that is limited by other considerations. The incessant demands of the people are that they should have good enough village roads connecting them with trunk roads or taluk roads. The Government should try to make ample provision for village roads. Considerable attention is paid to the maintenance of the trunk roads and other important roads in the districts. The same cannot be said of the attention paid by the Public Works Department in the matter of the maintenance and repairs of the 'water-ways' where so much capital outlay has been incurred in the past for their construction. I should like to refer especially to the present undesirable condition in which the Buckingham Canal, especially in the section lying south of Madras, is kept. In the December meeting of the Council, the attention of the Government was called to this. When the Government was asked to provide adequate funds for the improvement of the canal in the budget, the hon. the Law Member said that the Chief Engineer asked for a provision of Rs. 2 lakhs and 73 thousands and the Government considered that amount adequate to keep the canal open for traffic. For, there was a loud complaint of shallowness of the canal rendering boat traffic impossible in summer months of the year owing to the heavy silting of the canal and the unsatisfactory clearance of silt. I find that the demand of the Chief Engineer has not been complied with in full; for there is a provision of only Rs. 2 lakhs and 50 thousands in the next year's budget. It is not known how the provision works out per mile and whether it is adequate for proper maintenance of the canal for purposes of navigation. The people have complained bitterly that it is very

6th March 1926]

[Mr. C. Muttayya Mudaliyar]

difficult for the easy passage of boats laden with all kinds of cargo and passengers. We do not maintain roads *from a profit point of view*. It is more for the convenience of the people. It is from this point of view that the Government should consider the question of the provision of a few dredgers for the clearance of the silt. These waterways do really contribute to the convenience of the public, for the improvement of trade and commerce, especially along the coast of the south of Madras where there are no metal roads along the coast. This canal is highly useful to the people of the villages bordering on its whole length for the purpose of navigation and easy transit.

"I hope the hon. Member will see his way to provide better facilities by providing a few dredgers for keeping the canal dug deep enough for purposes of proper navigation. I even doubt whether proper values are got for the money spent in the clearance of the silt for, more often than not, the silts cleared out of the canal are not removed and deposited *further away* but put on the berm. When there are rains, all the silts are easily washed back into the canal, rendering the works of the silt clearance a farce, involving the loss of public money. Instructions should be issued to the officers concerned to see that the silts are removed to some distance to preclude them from coming back into the canals so very easily.

"I hope the hon. the Law Member will come with a supplementary demand for funds in the usual course to make better provision for the proper maintenance of the Buckingham Canal."

*Mr. NAGANNA HEGDE :—"I am not at all surprised at the unsatisfactory and disappointing feature of the budget that resulted in a net deficit of 76 lakhs and odd considering the indifference and the obstinacy of the Government in not having adopted the policy of retrenchment from the top.

"I understand that there is a proposal to reduce the number of police stations in the Presidency. So far as the district of South Kanara is concerned, it is a step in the wrong direction. Probably this may be due to the adoption of the policy of retrenchment. Merely for the sake of retrenchment policy, abolition of police stations and reduction of the number of constables are rather unwise and call for re-examination. Of late, crimes, heinous and otherwise, escape detection and culprits are let off for want of sufficient evidence. This is due to the defect in the investigation of cases. While it is so, how is it possible to expect a good administration when the root of the service itself is cut down? No attempt has been made to reduce the number of higher officers and it is indeed ridiculous to effect retrenchment at the bottom which should all the more be strengthened for the protection of life and property. It is absolutely impossible to think of any such change in the district of South Kanara where houses in the villages are separated miles apart; and justice will fail and the safety of the people will be at stake if the proposal is given effect to. I request that the hon. the Law Member will go through this question once more and afford protection to the people of this district by not giving effect to this drastic change.

"Of the very few departments that give a poor return and no relief to the people, the Forest Department is one and several high-paid officers are maintained at an enormous cost and such a large establishment is indeed

[Mr. Naganna Hegde]

[6th March 1926]

superfluous and retrenchment in this line is quite possible without detriment to the efficient administration of the department. The increased cost of the establishment under Forest with high officers do not improve the system of administration, but, on the other hand, tends to demoralise by harassing the poor, by imposing prohibitive fees and launching petty prosecutions under the false pretences of the Forest Act by the subordinate officials of the department, and those who suffer most under the category are chiefly agriculturists who own cattle and who require green leaves for manure and firewood. The restrictions placed on such people are tales of woe and hardship, and it is the duty of the Government to see that these restrictions are removed at once and facilities afforded to the public. Of course, I understand that something has been done by way of amelioration to remedy the defects at the instance of some of the hon. Members of this House, but that is not sufficient. And so it is high time that the Government should rise to the occasion and do something tangible and relieve the poor from such distress. For instance, the removal of the forest boundary a mile from the vicinity of the patta land was considered and passed by the House some time back and no action has yet been taken in giving effect to this resolution. The various disadvantages arising from the forest being in close proximity with patta land were fully discussed and gone through when the above resolution was passed. In the reserved forests plants and leaves are allowed to grow in abundance which very often serve as a shelter to wild animals so much so that the safety to life and property is always at stake. These plants are useful for manuring purposes and, if these green leaves are permitted to be used for agricultural purposes, agriculture will be greatly improved. Grazing of cattle should also be allowed on payment of a nominal fee, if necessary, as in these days cattle suffer most for want of proper fodder. Greater concession is to be given to the pattadars in their enjoyment of the kumaki lands as, for example, in South Kanara respective pattadars are taken to task for a small forest offence committed by an unknown person on the kumaki. It is hoped that necessary instructions will be issued to the local authorities concerned for the proper exercise of their discretion in the matter.

“Another department that is maintained at a maximum of cost with a minimum of return is Agriculture. I am not against the improvement of agriculture on more advanced lines. But all that I wish to say is that instructions should be made cheaper and more popular. Uniformity must be maintained. For instance the district of South Kanara is a very big one but cannot boast of having any agricultural farms or centres. There is a vast scope for improvement of agriculture in this district in Uppinangudi and Karkal taluks. Extensive areas are lying waste uncultivated, because no agricultural facilities are being given to this district. Though it is close to Malabar it is quite different. There is only one coconut farm at Kasaragod, but this does not serve the purpose. Nor is it likely that one will answer the needs of such a big district where more than one agricultural farm is necessary. The district is backward in easy communications not being scattered in all directions. It is therefore absolutely necessary that each taluk should have one farm. By this agriculture will be greatly improved. To help this, co-operative societies in rural areas should be opened in large numbers so much so that the return will amply justify the introduction of this system in the district.

6th March 1926]

[Mr. Naganna Hegde]

"The district of South Kanara is also behind her other sister districts in the matter of industrial education. The mere fact that greater facilities in this direction have been given to the metropolis in preference to the mufassal stations some of which have been completely neglected does not deserve any commendations or praise on the part of the Development Department. Cottage industries should be introduced in all possible ways in the elementary schools according to the nature of the locality. And weaving, coir making and smithy which are really essential for the masses should also be introduced in the model schools. It is hoped that greater consideration will be shown to this subject and further developments in this direction are expected at no distant date. It is only by promoting the course of industry that the poverty of the country will be relieved.

"As for medical aid more hospitals are necessary and the opening of hospitals is no doubt very costly. In the case of South Kanara and Malabar districts, the home of Ayurvedic system of medicine, it would be quite possible and convenient to open a large number of Ayurvedic institutions in the district and the needs of the people will thereby be satisfied.

"Separate hospitals for women and children are needed for the district. There is only one such hospital at Mangalore but it is located in a most unhealthy and insanitary locality. The Government have promised to contribute a large sum for the improvement of this hospital building but no steps have yet been taken regarding this. As I have pointed out already this district is devoid of easy communications and as such as many dispensaries as are necessary to suit the requirements of this district should be opened. I hope that the Government would devote some attention to the matter of giving medical relief to the people of this district.

"Before resuming my seat, I wish to remind the Government of the unfortunate predicament the people of South Kanara were in during the last two years, in the first year, of the immense loss in lives and property sustained by the heavy floods and in the next, by failure of the monsoon in the early part of the year and floods in the later part of it and the consequent failure of crops, and the circumstances are so very deplorable that I appeal to the Government to show some remission in the matter of land revenue.

"In conclusion I trust the Government will agree to my suggestion and give them a considerate response in the interest and welfare of the humanity at large."

* Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA :—"Mr. President, Sir, the first and foremost charge on the exchequer of all civilized governments is the amelioration of the condition of what are called the depressed classes. They are the real producers of wealth in this country. It is they that enable the landed aristocracy to pay heavy taxes to the State. The mirasidars' pride is based upon the sweat of the labourers on the field and the merchant fattens upon the profits earned by the despised coolie. Are not these depressed classes responsible for the land revenue of 746 lakhs and Excise revenue of 485 lakhs? On the whole it is they that enable Government to realize a revenue of 1,231 lakhs out of a total revenue of 1,634 lakhs. Under these circumstances, is it not just and proper that a considerable amount of the revenue should be earmarked for my people and spent in relieving their distress and

11-30
a.m.

[Mr. M. C. Raja]

[6th March 1926]

in giving their children better education with an agricultural bias and in improving their status and their present deplorable condition for which they are not responsible? If this is done, my people will be in a better condition to produce more wealth in the country and thus enable Government to realize more revenue in the shape of land revenue, as agriculture is the mainstay of the country, and as my people are employed in the productive industries of the land. Nation-building should be directed towards the amelioration of the condition of one-sixth of the population that have been kept down by the caste-proud Hindus for ages. Nation-building will all be tall talk if the activities are not directed towards the uplift of these wailing millions who are the real sons of the soil. After all, was it not the bureaucratic Government that created the department of the Commissioner of Labour, called at the initial stage as the department of the protector of the depressed classes? It has been in existence for the past eight years. If you take stock of what the department has achieved for all these years you will find it is very little. If at this rate the department is going to function its work, and it is a very difficult work indeed, it will take ages for the department to reach all parts of the Presidency. Now, I wish to draw attention to the slowness and slackness which prevails in the Labour department with regard to the work of amelioration among the depressed classes. It is not perhaps fair to blame the officials in the Labour office; but the system under which they have to work, a system for which the Party in power was then responsible, is so devised that efficient work cannot be carried on under it. The work that is now done by the department is so half-hearted subject to uncertainties and whimsicalities of so many persons and parties and communities that it stands in ominous contrast to the straightforward ethical directness of the activities of the department under the old bureaucratic Government. The Labour Commissioner assisted as he then was by the deputy collectors, men of influence, initiative and command, was an embodiment of the conscience of the State with regard to the wrongs under which the depressed classes suffered from time immemorial. The first concerted action of the British Government for the uplift of the depressed classes, the fruit of nearly a quarter of a century of discussion, was rendered ineffective by that vote of this Council in 1922. I refer to the abolition of the posts of assistant labour commissioners. During the past four years the department had a chequered career and deputy tahsildars acting under the orders of District Collectors have been appointed for introducing and carrying out ameliorative measures. It is a notorious fact that these men do not command one-tenth of the respect and influence the deputy collectors acting as agents of the Labour Commissioner did. The abolition of the posts of the assistant labour commissioners was a death-blow to the department. These assistant labour commissioners were able to see things for themselves without being carried away by the glamour of interested persons. These were men who were able to bring into play the courage and independence moderated by the tact and patience so essential for carrying on the beneficent work entrusted to them. To deprive the Labour Commissioner of the services of such men is to paralyse his work. Unless and until such men are appointed to do this real nation-building work, the department, as it is now manned by deputy tahsildars and tahsildars, will not be able to carry on the original good intentions for which this special department was created. "We are thankful

6th March 1926]

[Mr. M. C. Raja]

to His Excellency Lord Goschen for the interest and sympathy which His Excellency all along evinced in the welfare and progress of my community. His Excellency knows better than many Indian politicians that India's progress* and attainment of Swaraj depend upon my people being uplifted. Hence his patriotic sympathy towards us. I know how grateful my people are to His Excellency for his direct influence in averting the eviction of the Adi-Dravida tenants from Mackay's Gardens in Madras. This is but one example of His Excellency's statesmanlike kindness towards us. It is a melancholy fact that in the distribution of the remitted provincial contributions no allotment has been made for the Labour department and yet if there is one department of Government which may be said to be a nation-building department it is the department which is to look after the depressed classes. The fact of the matter is that the depressed classes are not regarded as children of the soil, as sons of India, but as aliens within the house who ought to be kept down so that they may not raise their heads. When such is the attitude of the powerful classes in this country what moral right have they to protest against the treatment accorded to the Indians in South Africa? If we were really in earnest about qualifying the country for Swaraj by raising the depressed classes, we would have a Labour Member in the Cabinet whose sole and exclusive attention will be confined to the labouring classes. There are a thousand things to be done for them, educationally, economically and so on.

"Education is the most crying need of the depressed classes more even than of the other classes. There are a number of scattered schools conducted by the Labour department but they have no separate inspecting agency to maintain a high standard of efficiency. I do not want them to be handed over to the Education Department, but I propose that a special inspecting agency should be created under the control of the Labour Commissioner for supervising schools for depressed classes.

"The other day the Education Minister when confronted with the amount of drunkenness among the poor and labouring classes said that education was the best cure for drink. But if there is any sincerity in that plea, I should like to see more schools and much better schools for the sole benefit of these classes than are to be found to-day. The allotment set apart for the amelioration of the depressed classes is not at all encouraging, seeing the great bulk of the people, their deplorable condition and the immense work that lies before us. The work of the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes is now being carried on in the districts of Tanjore, Godavari, Chingleput, South Arcot, Kistna, Guntur, Bellary, Trichinopoly and South Kanara. It will be interesting to know how far and in how many taluks in each of the above districts the operations have been really carried on. Here also it is not fair for me to belittle the work of the district labour officers, for, as I said just now, they are either tahsildars or deputy tahsildars with a very limited establishment under them. I hope at least from this year the hon. Members of this Council, I mean, the Indian Members who have been ceaselessly fighting for provincial autonomy and for swaraj, will not starve out this nation-building department and in the distribution of grants will give the first and foremost consideration to this department.

[Mr. M. C. Raja.]

[6th March 1926]

“Looking through the Education Budget, I am glad to note that the Minister for Education has extended his hand towards non-Government institutions. After all, it is the non-Government institutions that require substantial aid from Government. Were not these missionaries the pioneers in the field of education in this country? Is it not to them that we owe a debt of gratitude? Education ought to be the first demand on the State purse, and I am glad my hon. Friend, Sir Patro, has taken a lion's share this year and wisdom demands that the State should aid, and aid liberally, these private agencies which have generously and from pure public spirit stepped in to aid the Government in doing work which they ought to do themselves, and which if they try to do they will have to spend four times of what they now give to private agencies. It is a mistake to call private-managed schools aided schools, as if they receive aid or alms from Government. They are not *aided* schools but *aiding* schools, for they really aid the Government. Although I see some improvement in the figures in the Budget, yet they are not adequate. I am glad to see an increase in the scholarships. May I request the hon. the Minister for Education to issue special directions to the officers concerned to consider the claims of depressed classes while awarding scholarships. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to see a provision of Rs. 1,000 for the boy-scouts' association and a provision of Rs. 3,000 for the girl-guide associations. One special feature for which I wish to congratulate the hon. the Minister for Education is the provision he has made in this Budget for a special officer for Mappilla education. This is a step in the right direction. I have asked many a time in this Council for the creation of a special inspecting agency for depressed class education. Our claims for this are much greater than those of the Muhammadans and Mappillas. Our population is 7 millions and that of the Muhammadans is nearly 3 millions. There are 3,250 institutions for Muhammadans with 172,362 pupils. And there are 987 schools for Mappillas with 6,992 pupils. Whereas there are 9,609 schools for depressed classes with 265,206 pupils. These figures clearly point out the necessity for a special inspecting agency for looking after the education of the depressed classes.

“I find that though an order was passed in 1919 that no school maintained solely from public funds should be allowed to refuse admission to pupils of the depressed classes, yet in 1925 a Government Order issued by the Education Ministry says that in the districts of Kistna, Chingleput, South Arcot, Ramnad and Salem there are local board schools located in places inaccessible to the depressed classes. I would suggest that, in the case of such schools, subsidies by Government should be withdrawn. This would automatically compel local bodies to conform to the orders of Government in the matter of admitting depressed classes pupils.

“The Government Order from which I have just now quoted says that the solution of all problems of elementary education can be solved only by introducing the element of compulsion. I may say that whether compulsory education is necessary for other classes or not, it is absolutely necessary for the depressed classes. If it is said that depressed classes parents are more anxious to send their children to wage-earning occupations than to schools, that only shows that their economic condition prevents them from availing themselves to the full of the educational facilities provided by Government. The remedy is that the economic burden on the parents should be lightened

6th March 1926]

[Mr. M. C. Raja]

by a small subsidy being paid to the poor parents who send their children to school. If this is too large a proposition for some of the hon. Members with their traditional and hereditary apathy towards my people, I would suggest as a minimum relief to parents that a meal be provided at midday to pupils who attend schools. This will act as an attractive incentive to pupils and parents alike.

"Another department of Education which requires more effort on the part of the Government is girls' education. There are not sufficient secondary schools and efficient ones for the large number who pass through the elementary course. It may be urged that it is difficult to find suitable women teachers for the purpose. In this connexion it is important that the Widows Home started with the idea of educating a class of women who would otherwise remain a burden and an eyesore in the Hindu society, so that in course of time—not within a few years but in the course of two or three decades—a large group of women teachers might spring up amongst them, should be maintained in full strength. There was a time when the institution was subjected to a great deal of criticism on account of its sectional bias; but now its constituency has been widened and widows from all classes are receiving education in it. I trust that ample funds will be found for extending the usefulness of this most benevolent institution. When talking of widows, one's thoughts naturally turn to orphans. For what does the Bible say: 'Pure religion and undefiled before God and man is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.' I understand that in the matter of giving support to orphanages, Government makes a distinction between orphan destitutes and non-orphan destitutes. I wish to point out that a child may have parents living and yet be an orphan, that is to say that the parents may be so feeble and disabled that their children are as bad as orphans. I understand that such children are treated and rightly treated as orphans in European orphanages. I submit that the same comprehensive policy of orphans may be followed with regard to Indian orphanages.

"I hope I may draw attention in this Council to another class of unfortunate humanity who require the help of the Government. I refer to the deaf, the dumb and the blind for whose benefit a few institutions have been started in this Presidency. It is a pity that Government have not thought it fit to start such institutions themselves. The best thing that they could do is to help those who are doing this work. All these institutions are maintained and managed by private agencies. The Government may discharge its duty in this respect by giving liberal aid to them. I am glad to mention that the Canoness' Mission of St. Augustine have started a school for the blind, the deaf and the dumb under the able management of Rev. Mother M. Arsen in Mackay's Gardens where my people live in considerable numbers.

"In conclusion, I would invite the attention of this Council to the working of rule 92 of the Madras Educational Rules which professes to help pupils of backward and depressed classes by insisting that they should be charged half-fees where the parents are so poor that this concession is necessary to enable them to continue their education. The Government undertake when this concession is made by aided schools to make good the other half of the fee. But the aid is calculated at standard rates of fees which

[Mr. M. C. Raja]

[6th March 1926]

are lower than the rates charged by aided schools in the interests of efficiency. Thus the school which gives this concession suffers a loss in the case of each boy of the amount of difference between the standard rate and the actual school rate. The temptation in such cases is to refuse admission to pupils of depressed classes, and I am afraid it is coming to that, since their admission is a source of loss to the management. As things stand at present, the only schools where depressed classes are freely admitted are the mission schools, and by the working of this rule 92 they are penalised by the department for helping the depressed classes. This is as it should not be and the sooner the Government undertake to make good the loss sustained by the schools for doing a work which the Government are morally bound to do themselves the better will it be for the country as a whole."

11-45
a.m.

* Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ :—" Mr. President, Sir, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for presenting this year rather a satisfactory Budget.

" Out of a total expenditure of Rs. 72,55,000, a sum of Rs. 14,59,000 goes to education, say 20 per cent which is no doubt satisfactory. Out of this amount only 3.13 lakhs have been allotted for the opening of elementary schools. The salvation of India mainly depends upon the literacy of its people and I therefore think that the hon. Minister for Education should increase the amount towards the expansion of elementary education. In fact, each village must have a Government school. Of course, care must be taken not to establish a school in the village where there is already a private or missionary school. In the village where a Government school is not established, a satisfactory grant must be given to the existing private or missionary school.

" On account of a recent Government Order differentiating backward from depressed classes, the Director of Public Instruction has mercilessly reduced the annual grants by a large amount for very important missionary schools which have been producing very good results and spending large sums of money towards equipment. Some school managers have appealed to Government for reconsidering the orders of the Director, and I do hope the hon. Minister will favourably consider the appeals. There should be no distinction between backward and depressed communities without any regard to the religion which they may profess. Government are under the impression that when a member of the backward or depressed community becomes a convert to Christianity, his social status is improved and he suddenly becomes rich enough to pay full fees. The case is otherwise. His expenses increase as he imitates refined societies. By this misapprehension, all the concessions which a member of the backward or depressed community was enjoying previous to his conversion are withdrawn. The result is that many of the students of the backward community have to leave the school on account of the expensive education. Why should a religion be penalised for such a conversion ?

" Female education also suffers a good deal by the withdrawal of the concessions which we are granted to them. Female students must be given all possible concessions without any regard to the religion they may profess. It is under the consideration of the Government to take steps to relieve the unemployment of the educated middle classes and a committee also has been

6th March 1926]

[Mr. Cruz Fernandez]

appointed for the purpose of advising Government. This is a broad subject to deal with and it remains to be seen what the committee is going to advise Government on the subject. The only way to relieve the position will be to open vocational classes from the lowest class in the elementary school to teach agriculture, carpentry, smithy, fitting, spinning, etc., and when a student comes up to the third or sixth form he will have sufficient culture in him and he will be a proper workman himself. He will be able to eke out his livelihood without waiting upon Government or commercial offices in search of a quill-driving job. By these means the position will be relieved. In fact, each secondary school must have a small factory attached to it where all the technical subjects will be taught. Government also should give grants towards the upkeep of such factories.

"Public health of our Presidency is far from satisfactory. More rural dispensaries should be opened. The sum of Rs. 34,000 allotted for the whole Presidency is very small. In fact, there must be a rural dispensary duly equipped as far as possible within a radius of five miles. Deaths by cholera are increasing and in fact in many districts the epidemic is rather permanent. It is needless to say that unless the quality of the drinking water in the rural parts is improved, cholera cannot be eradicated. The district health officers and the health inspectors are doing good work in this respect and the Director of Public Health is to be congratulated for the keen interest he takes upon the health of especially rural parts through his district staff. By opening a larger number of rural dispensaries, Government are also providing a larger number of medical officers who have been turned out of their services on account of retrenchment in the Medical department. Almost nothing is being done in the way of improving the village roads and rural water-supply. It is only by the opening of more rural roads, we shall be able to improve the economic condition of the villagers and by improving the rural water-supply we shall be able to eradicate the various water-borne epidemics that are prevalent in the country and reduce the rate of mortality. More money should be allotted under these headings and then only the ryots who have been ever grumbling for the payment of the various taxes will be rather consoled that something is being done as a return for the tax he pays. The question of having an up-to-date hospital at Tuticorin is hanging for many years and successive Governors and other Members of Government have strongly condemned the present condition of the hospital and advised the municipality to have a better hospital. Of course, Government is always prepared to pay its half share for the construction of the hospital, but the municipality cannot find its means to defray the other half. Hence the question is dragging on for many years. As Tuticorin will shortly have a harbour and will be a centre of commercial activities, both European and Indian, it is very necessary that Government should provide an up-to-date hospital fully at Government expense without waiting for any contributions from the municipality which always pleads poverty and has got many improvements to make out of municipal funds. Of course, the municipalities will run the dispensaries which are to be run in the other parts of the town at its own cost. I request therefore Government should give their immediate attention to this subject at an early date.

"Again the Tuticorin water-supply scheme is pending for the last twelve years and nothing has come out of it although the municipal council has accepted by the end of last year the latest estimate of 25 lakhs and agreed

[Mr. Cruz Fernandez]

[6th March 1926]

to tax $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent water-tax to meet the half cost of the scheme. Now the Superintending Engineer has sent a revised estimate for 32 lakhs, say, about 28 per cent over the original estimate. At this rate of revising the estimates every three months, there will be no end to the communications between the Government and the Municipal Council, the result being that the water-works are being delayed and the materials which have already been supplied in the head works are rotting and unless such materials are made use of at once, there will be another revision of estimates to replace the rotten and worn-out materials, which will be another 25 per cent over the present estimate. It is therefore requested that prompt orders may be passed by Government to recommence the water-works and the details can be settled between the council and the Government after they are commenced.

"The nomination of Indian Christians is not at all considered by the presidents of the various boards although suitable candidates are available in the areas. As regards the Tinnevely—Ramanad district constituency, for which I am a representative, in the Tinnevely district, there are 30 union boards of which only 13 have nominated Indian Christians, although there is a large population of Christians in the above two districts. It is requested that the hon. the Chief Minister will issue strict orders to the various boards in the Presidency to see that the Indian Christians are nominated in each and every board.

"The Agricultural department has not done sufficient work in the district in the way of propaganda work to improve the cotton and other cultivation. Experimental farms have been established in important centres where are railway stations and it is the rural population which has to be educated towards the improvement in cultivation. The demonstrators must show more touring work in the district. Model farms should be established in the interior, so that ryots may be induced to visit the farms conveniently and more frequently and see for themselves the improved cultivation of cotton and paddy.

"There is a scheme for the opening of a marine school at Vizagapatam. Tuticorin is a more suitable place to open such a school as there is a large population of seafaring people in and around Tuticorin who are fit to be efficient mariners. It is not my idea that Government should give up the idea of opening the marine school at Vizagapatam in favour of Tuticorin. I meant only an additional school at Tuticorin. By this way both the east coast and the south coast may be benefited. Tuticorin has a better claim, because it is expected that the Fisheries department will be able to show a good surplus from the pearl fisheries which are being conducted at Tuticorin and any surplus may be advantageously utilized for the purpose of establishing the marine school at Tuticorin which will also relieve the economic distress of the people there.

"Thanks to the hon. the Law Member for the allotment of sufficient funds in 1925 and 1926-27 for the repair of breaches in the Tambarabharani river. Especially under the north main channel at Srivaikuntam ancient works must be expedited as far as possible. It is unfortunate that in the very places where the breaches occurred during the 1923 floods and repairs were made, breaches occurred in 1925 also and the money spent on such repairs had to be respent.

6th March 1926]

[Mr. Cruz Fernandez]

"On account of the recent floods, many lands under the Srivaikuntam north main channel were silted up and majority of such lands have been rendered uncultivable for a few years until such silt is removed at a large expense. Proper remissions of taxes should therefore be given to the ryots.

"Somehow or other popular opinion is that the removal of the trees from the Papanasam hills will have adverse influence upon the rains. The opinion of the scientists and other experts may be otherwise. In any case, people may be sufficiently educated on this point, and it will be advisable to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to discuss the question and report to the Government before final orders are passed.

"By the Mettur and Kattalai schemes, all the districts north of Tinnevely will be benefited. But the Tinnevely district is waiting for the Papanasam storage reservoir scheme to be put on hand. It is expected that the hon. the Law Member will also take some interest in the improvement of irrigation in the southernmost district of the Presidency and launch the Papanasam scheme during the year 1927-28.

"As regards communal representation in public services it is a matter for regret that the claims of the Indian Christian community are greatly ignored. If the statistics are examined there is only a mere sprinkling in the various services. As regards literacy it excels every other community. In the Judicial Department there are only three or four people and so also in other services also. Whenever there is an opportunity of appointing probationary officers, say revenue inspectors, deputy tahsildars, deputy superintendents of police, etc., it is requested that the claims of the Indian Christian community are favourably considered."

* Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, the estimates for 1926-27 prepared by the hon. the Finance Member are expected to close with a deficit balance and we hope the hon. the Finance Member will give us a surplus budget next year. I had been putting a series of interpellations regarding the hard fate of the ill-paid copyists of the civil courts. I trust the hon. the Law Member will take early steps to improve their lot at least similar to that of the clerks of the Registration department. The only thing that I would request of the hon. Minister for Education is the appointment of committees in all the districts consisting of non-official members of each district with the district educational officer as the president for the purpose of selecting pupil-teachers in the several training schools in each district. The present system does not entitle members of backward and depressed communities to be duly selected. I have been impressing on the mind of the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government through a series of interpellations the necessity to allot funds for bridging the unbridged rivers in North Malabar and for the extension of the trunk road from Calicut to Payyanur. Several representations have been made to him and several petitions have been sent to him. To my greatest disappointment I find that not a single river has yet been bridged in North Malabar.

"The condition of the backward communities in Calicut and other places in Malabar require special consideration in respect of providing them with burial-grounds. It was but last week—and I know the Collector of Malabar is aware of it—that plague was heavily raging at Calicut and

[Mr. P. V. Gopalan]

[6th March 1926]

several dead bodies had to be buried in the heart of the town and thereby spoil the health of the city. I hope the hon. Minister will consider the question of providing burial-grounds for the backward and depressed classes in Calicut. I hope he will allow a decent sum for the drinking-water question of the municipalities of Calicut and Cannanore. Mr. President, the time at my disposal to go into the details is rather limited and I therefore confine myself only to the Fisheries department which is under the portfolio of the hon. Minister for Development. I note that the provision made in the budget for the Fisheries department as a whole for 1926-27 is Rs. 6,74,500 and the provision made for new schemes relating to this head is only Rs. 13,100. Out of the six new schemes I find there is hardly a single one worth the name of a new scheme. It is more or less a development of the existing schemes.

12
noon

"As regards the Tanur Experimental station, the fact that the institution is incurring heavy losses year after year has become almost proverbial. I suggested last year that the experiments, if at all anything is carried there, can be conducted by the Oil Chemist of the Government Kerala Soapery at Calicut who has a laboratory attached to the soapery, or can better be handled by the Research Assistants of the Government fisheries at West Hill, Calicut, rather than keeping an establishment heavily paid by the Government at Tanur. For in spite of the good income from the coconut trees of this station, heavy loss is the result every year.

"Coming to the transfer of the fish-curing yard from the Salt department to the Fisheries department, I find that it has not resulted in any material advantage to the poor fisherfolk. The price of the salt was raised by 100 per cent, and the establishment and other charges have to be paid by these poor fisherfolk. Till 1924 all those charges were debited under Salt Revenue. The plea put forward by the Government that it is an experimental measure has had the effect of reducing the poor fishermen to disappointment, penury and giving Government a good profit. The idea seems to have been to elevate the economic condition of the poor fisherfolk, but in this case, the very thrust of the dagger has been used against them. Government Order No. 292, dated 14th February 1924, stated that the fishermen should either pay an increased price for their salt or they must meet the establishment charges, but to my great surprise in the last year's business of 170,000 maunds of salt which costs to Government 9 pies or so per maund at the place of manufacture, Rs. 1½ lakhs have been shown as establishment charges. Thus the fishermen are made to pay an increase of 100 per cent for fish-curing salt and also the whole establishment charges of the department. This is not the sense of the above Government Order I have quoted.

"In my budget speech last year, I urged on Government the necessity for the construction of pucca sanitary buildings for the several elementary schools under the control of this department on the west coast. A year has passed now and nothing substantial has been done so far, and I hope the hon. the Minister for Development would see that something is done at least this year. If these institutions are to be under the Educational department, the department would never have such rickety buildings. Another thing I have to mention before the House is that the Fisheries department will see that the construction works are given to contractors after calling for tenders as otherwise much lack of supervision and unnecessary loss are sustained by

6th March 1926]

[Mr. P. V. Gopalan]

the department. The Government have their Public Works Department to carry on such construction work and I cannot understand why their services are not utilized. We are all aware of the unauthorized cess collection of Rs. 12,000 from the curers of Tanur fish-curing yard by some wonderful capacity of a subordinate officer of the Development Minister and the payment of Rs. 6,100 and odd to one who was said to be a contractor, and the Public Works Department when requested to value the sheds constructed said the buildings were not worth even half the value paid. It is years since this embezzlement took place, and this year I brought to the notice of this House and the Minister for Development, and so far he has not made any arrangement to refund the money collected from the poor starving fishermen. I may mention here for the information of this House and the Development Minister in particular, that the financial and economic conditions of the fisherfolk are so very poor that anybody would feel for them. They had Rs. 70 lakhs worth of oil and guano business in 1922-23, but only Rs. 40 lakhs worth of business was done in 1923-24, and to make things worse, only Rs. 10 lakhs business was done in 1924-25, besides the heavy loss sustained by them in men and material this year owing to the unfortunate cyclone distress. If it is not now that the Minister comes to their rescue, I do not know when he will have a chance of showing his sympathy in relieving their economic distress.

"As regards the canneries, the commercial accountants to the Government of Madras, Messrs. Fraser and Ross, have been preparing balance sheets and audit reports one after the other and all these show that the cannery is working at a very heavy loss. The advisability of closing it down has been considered by Government on more than one occasion, and I believe that except for the educative value which it is supposed to give, there is nothing in its favour for its retention. The hon. the Minister for Development will, I trust, take early steps to clear all the idle stock in hand and also sell or lease the same to any business concern.

"In passing, I wish to bring to the notice of this House that owing to lack of proper supervision and advice from experienced and business-like officers having technical knowledge of the various questions affecting the betterment and improvement of the fisher people, our Fisheries department has been able to make a poor show. To cite an instance, recently large quantities of mackerels used for edible purposes had to be buried or dried and used as manure being sold for cheap prices, for want of salt in the fish-curing yard at Malpe. This is nothing but want of foresight of the so-called officers of the Fisheries department. To overcome all such unpleasantness, loss and disappointment, I would propose for the favourable consideration of this House the appointment of a standing committee consisting of prominent members of the fisher communities of the west coast with a view to offering advice to the officials of the Fisheries department in matters relating to the welfare of the fisher communities.

"I wish to say a few words about the question of inaugurating a number of co-operative societies among the poor fisherfolk. The number of societies in 1924-25, it is stated, has risen from 54 to 56, but they have been hopelessly mismanaged. There are societies not visited by the Fishery officers for the past two or three years together. The department simply wants to increase the number of societies without seeing to their proper actual working. The co-operative department does not want to take up these

[Mr. P. V. Gopalan]

[6th March 1926]

societies, as they will bring bad name for them, since they are very badly managed. Hence they shirk responsibility. The excuse given is that the season is bad. I am sure only a bad season is the time most suitable for developing co-operative societies.

"These are the few remarks, with which I will be content to make on this occasion."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"Mr. President, when Sir Charles Todhunter presented his budget two years ago, he said that he hoped to see light in the future and that we were just then out of the woods. But I say we are still very much in the woods, and we are going to end this year with a big deficit. What light Sir Charles talked of is yet to come, and I do not know when it will come. I am not a great believer in deficit budgets, because I think we ought to cut our coat according to the cloth and try to meet expenditure out of revenue, unless we are going to spend the money on productive enterprises like the Mettur project. In cases where there is going to be no productivity, I think it ought to be the duty of the Members of Government to find the money from revenue itself, and it is a well known fact that as far as this province is concerned our revenue is not an elastic one. The revenue is very inelastic, and I think we have reached a stage from which we cannot go further. For instance, the two great productive revenues of this province are excise and land revenue. In my opinion, land is taxed highly enough at present, and as for excise there is a great cry for prohibition, and then my hon. Friends on the other side tabled a resolution that they would like to see prohibition introduced in twenty years' time. When such is the case, I think it is time that our Finance Member thought of trying to meet expenditure from revenue and not go on thinking that because the Government of India are going to give back some part of our contributions we can go on budgeting for deficits. I heard it said seriously by one of the Members on the other side that if we go on budgeting for deficits the Government of India will consider that it is time they remitted our contributions. On the other hand, I think, Sir Basil Blackett, when took charge of the Finance Department of the Government of India, said that he would have no sympathy with provinces who could not make both sides of their budgets balance. I am sure he will think twice before he proposes to give back any money to this province because we seem to go on budgeting for deficits year after year. If we are going to end this year with a small balance, that I think is due to the fact that my hon. Friends the Ministers have had to give up some of their allotments because they could not spend them during the year. With these remarks, I wish to turn to the departments.

"I shall begin with my hon. Friend, the Law Member, who is in charge of Irrigation. I am sorry, Sir, the Irrigation Bill has come back again to this House, when we hoped we had seen the end of it and that the hon. the Law Member had had in his hand an instrument with which he was going to make milk flow in this province. But we were very much mistaken, and evidently he thinks that the measure is not stringent enough for him to introduce any big schemes. I hope when that Bill does come back to this Council, the Council will turn its back to it and say 'we have done with it'.

"Now, with regard to the Mettur project, Sir, I am sure the hon. the Law Member is aware of the little note I wrote to him about my own district. I think that Salem and Coimbatore are to be treated in a fair manner, because,

6th March 1926]

[Dr. P. Subbarayan]

as far as Salem is concerned—I am talking from personal experience of this district—if Cauvery water is not given to us, the plight of the district will be much worse than this year, and with the series of bad years we have had during the last three years, the condition of the ryot population of the district is really very bad, and I am sure if the hon. the Law Member will find time to tour in the district, he will find in what dire need of water the people suffer from.

“With regard to jails, Sir, I hope the hon. the Home Member read the speech of His Excellency Lord Lytton, Governor of Bengal, at the Rotary Club, Calcutta, wherein he said that Indian prisons are not conducted in any scientific manner. I think it is time that a scientific plan by which the condition of the prisoners will be really improved is adopted. I hope the hon. Member in charge will bear that in mind.

“As for education, Sir, I cannot shower the same amount of congratulation that was bestowed on the Education Minister by some. He has been in charge of this department for the last five years, and we are where we were and no new progress has been made. Of course, the Education Minister can pat himself on his back in regard to the two Bills that he piloted through this House, viz., the Madras University Bill and the Andhra University Bill. If he thinks that he has done his duty by those two Bills, I leave the matter at that. With regard to the Madras University Bill, as a member of the Senate, I can say that at every turn we are finding that the Act is a very unsatisfactory one, because it is ill-drawn, and at every step there is a conflict between the Senate, the Syndicate, the Council of Affiliated Colleges and the Academic Council. The Syndicate does not know what its powers are, and when it comes to the Senate it is as much in the dark as to their own powers. That is one of the achievements of the hon. the Minister for Education. As regards the other, the Andhra University Act, he may pat himself on the back saying I have given the Andhra people a University for which they have been asking for the last fifty years. But what is the state of it now? The Minister talked at length of concentration which he gave up as soon as he found that his own followers were not for it, and the University is to have its seat at Bezwada. I think big buildings will rise up at Bezwada which will only be open at the time of the Convocation, and when the Convocation is over they will be shut up like so many ancient temples in this land, and will be the dwelling place for bats (laughter). Such is the achievement of the Education Minister with regard to university education.

“Now, with regard to secondary education, he says he has created the secondary education boards, and with that his responsibility ends. There is no attempt made to find out the best method of secondary education which would benefit the people of this province. But instead of doing it, he is marking time.

“Now, I turn to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government. I must say, Sir, in his case that I should shower a bit of congratulation because he had given us the Religious Endowments Act, a measure of which any Minister can be proud (Hear, hear). I hope that this measure will bear the fruit which the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government expected. But with regard to local bodies I cannot congratulate him, for the simple reason I do feel that the power of nomination has been used

[Dr. P. Subbarayan]

[6th March 1926]

merely to enthrone his party in power. I cannot get away from the fact that though nominations ought to be made, though the Local Boards Act when it was passed said distinctly that nominations were reserved in the hands of Government in order to equalize the chances of minority communities like the Mussalmans and the depressed classes, we often see that the power of nomination is used to put members of the party in councils. I shall give a few instances. In the case of South Arcot, there are a good number of persons of one community in the board and when vacancies occurred members of the same community have been nominated when there was a cry that the depressed classes should be represented (Hear hear). Still we are seeing the hon. Minister nominate only members of a particular community. I feel perhaps he is doing it unwittingly. I hope that the power of nomination will be only used as it is provided in the Act itself.

"I turn to my hon. Friend the Minister for Agriculture. He has not been in charge of his department for such a long time as the other two have been, but in spite of it, during the short time at his disposal he might have done a lot if he had applied his shoulder to the wheel; but unfortunately, we are in the same position as under the bureaucrats, perhaps worse, because we are spending a good deal of money and getting nothing in return.

"With regard to the Revenue Member, I should like to bring to his notice two things. As a representative of the landholders in this Council I should like to point out that it involves great difficulty to us landowners in dealing with village officers. They are under the control of the Revenue officers of the place. And what happens is whenever they are asked to do collection work, they say that the tahsildar has come to such and such a place, or that the divisional officer has come to such and such a place and they must attend to him and so on. They are always dancing attendance about them, because those officers have it in their power to dismiss them or deal with them otherwise. We poor landholders can get no work out of them. I hope the hon. the Revenue Member will take this into his consideration, especially in times of scarcity like this, and will issue proper orders to the district officers, so that the village officers will really attend to collection work for which I suppose they are meant.

"I should like to point out one thing before I close. It was two years ago that I referred to the fact that we are inclined to bring in personalities in this Council. I must say that I was very sorry when I saw my hon. Friend the Member for Guntur mentioning a matter about my hon. Friend from Bellary. What did it lead to? It led to nowhere except the remarks from my friend from Bellary that he was sent for and asked whether he could be the president of the district board and on his saying he could not be was nominated as member."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"What I said was that it was Mr. Kesava Pillai that had brought him to me and recommended him for presidentship, and that Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar himself asked for appointment as member and I agreed to appoint him as such."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Any way, Sir, evidently, there is difference of opinion between the two members and I leave it to them. But my one concern is that we should, as far as possible, not refer to personalities in this

6th March 1926]

[Dr. P. Subbarayan]

House. This is a well understood convention in all parliamentary institutions. I do not care what happens to one individual member or another individual member. But we are fighting for parliamentary institutions; and we should try to approximate to the conventions that prevail in other parliamentary institutions."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am not one of those who cast a despairing eye over the budget that has been presented by the hon. the Finance Member. I congratulate him on the care that he has taken in preparing the budget and on the manner in which he has presented it. I am sure, Sir, during the months that he has sat and carefully considered the preparation of the budget, very often he must have remembered the old times when he spent his school days at Sir William Fette's school near Edinburgh; very often he must have recollected his games the fives court and the attendance at school-house or at the Carrington house and the motto emblazoned there "Laboria". It seems to me that he has kept that in view in the preparation of the budget and that he has bestowed an amount of care and industry which does credit to the department of which he is in charge.

"Mr. President, more than one gentleman in this House has said that it is a deficit budget, and I see that newspapers outside, probably from a hasty and cursory glance of the budget have also fallen into the pit and called it a deficit budget. I do not consider it a deficit budget. If you go through the details of the budget, if you see what new schemes have been sanctioned and if you specially realise that expenditure on these new schemes is not of a recurring nature, I am sure you will come to the conclusion that the budget is not a deficit budget. The hon. the Finance Member has not done justice to himself, because he could have avoided all that ill-informed criticism if he had merely satisfied himself by presenting a balanced budget, and then when the contribution came from the Government of India given full latitude to the new schemes which he has now given in the original budget. As I said, it seems to me perfectly clear that this budget is not a deficit but a balancing budget. Having said that about the hon. the Finance Member, let me also pay my tribute to the work that has been done by the hon. the Finance Secretary and his department. Those of them who were in the Finance Committee assured me—I regret I was not in the Finance Committee myself—they assured me that the care that was bestowed by the Finance Department, by the Finance Secretary in particular, was something of which they could well be proud. Therefore it is with pleasure that I join in the well-merited encomium to the Finance Member and the department in his charge. I am certain the Finance Secretary watching the course of the debate during the last two days must have felt as that writer must have felt 'homo plantat hom irrigat sed dens dat increment.' The Finance Department prepares the budget, the Finance Secretary looks through it, but for the criticisms that may be levelled against it he has no responsibility. Members of the Council are in a position to say what they like, sometimes understandingly, sometimes—I shall not mention the alternative. The position of the Finance Department must have been very hard during the last two days and more, when they heard criticisms from member after member on subjects on which they, of the Finance Department, could not throw more light.

[Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar]

[6th March 1926]

"Having said that, let me turn to the departments themselves. On the Reserved side I do not wish to offer much criticism, not that criticism could not be offered, but I think there has been a conventional understanding among certain sections not to offer that criticism which could have been offered. (Voices of 'question' from the Opposition). The hon. Members' speeches are the best answer to the question raised. I have a few difficulties with regard to my own district. First as regards the Police, it was I think, the other day I was shocked to learn of a complaint from a corner of my district which showed me that sometimes the Police Department was so conducted that it lost sight of all humanities. In a corner of my district, called Sathiavedu, there is a tribe, which unfortunately comes under the Criminal Tribes Act. I have found to my regret—I have verified the statement later and therefore I say this with a full sense of responsibility—that these tribes having come under the Act are required to go to the Police station twice during the night, at 12 o'clock midnight and at 3 o'clock in the early morning to report themselves. And they have again to go to the police station at 9 o'clock in the morning to report themselves. Just fancy to yourself any civilized Government, bureaucratic or democratic, calling upon that tribe of people, however undesirable they may be, however much past guilt may be on their heads, calling upon them to go in the middle of the night leaving their houses, twice during the night to report themselves to the police station, and again at 9 o'clock in the morning. They could not practically do any work to earn their bread, because all the work will be allotted to others who come much earlier. I have been told that this is not an individual case in the Chingleput district. This practice obtains elsewhere also. I ask whether there can be anything of a more scandalous nature in connexion with the administration of the Police department. I have tried to verify this to the very best of my ability and what I heard seems to be correct.

"Then again, Sir, with reference to the Department of Irrigation, my hon. Friend, the Law Member, has been congratulated on the inauguration of the Mettur project. I do not wish to withhold congratulations where they are rightly due. Even before the Irrigation Bill was passed into law—that Bill which was rushed through the Council because on that depended the Mettur project—even before that, like a *Deus ex machina*, the Irrigation Member has been able to initiate the irrigation project, and somehow or other he has managed through his trips to Delhi to get the amount required before the Council was able to pass finally the Bill, and before the assent of the authorities was obtained. Therefore I congratulate him on this creditable feat of his. But it seems to me from a perusal of the Irrigation Budget that the hon. Member's whole mind and energy is engrossed by this single project, and other irrigation projects of a similar nature affecting other districts are completely lost sight of and completely left in the background. What has been done with reference to the several other districts which cannot possibly come under the Mettur project. About one crore of rupees is supposed to be taken up by the Mettur project. I do not want to say that it is not justified. It will help a great many people. But it seems to me that if only one great project is taken up and several other projects which can be as useful to the few people that are concerned by these projects are all neglected till Mettur project blossoms up into full maturity, it seems to me really hard and unfair

6th March 1926]

[Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar]

to the members of other districts. In my own district there is practically no provision made for irrigation. We have a channel called the Kinnirettam channel over which there has been a great deal of agitation, there have been questions repeatedly put not only in the Reformed Legislative Council during the last six years, but also in the late Council, where my hon. Friend from Anantapur, the Deputy President, made himself responsible for agitation on this matter. I have myself repeatedly put questions about this channel. Government promised something. Their superintending engineers and executive engineers have written replies to the memorials that the channel scheme would be taken up as early as possible, and yet there is absolutely no indication of any consideration having been bestowed by the Irrigation department on that channel. And Uttiramerur is a place where irrigation facilities are badly needed and where some little relief in the direction suggested would be most welcome. I am perfectly certain that other hon. Members who do not live in the catchment area of the Mettur project will be equally hard hit by the attentions of the hon. the Irrigation Member being solely confined to the Mettur project. I wish to warn the Irrigation Member that though he has been doing a great deal of good by taking up such big schemes like the Hydro-electric scheme and the Mettur project, he still will do a great deal of harm if he does not bestow some little attention on other schemes. It seems to me that after all, schemes like the Mettur project are financed out of Loan funds, and according to the recent orders of the Secretary of State lesser schemes are to be financed from revenue accounts. Therefore, there is nothing essentially clashing between the two schemes unless it be that the department could not attend to more things than these and the hon. the Irrigation Member could not have attended to those things as well.

"As regards the Forest department, I must congratulate the hon. the Forest Member on the fact that since he has taken charge—I am able to acknowledge that publicly as a member of the Standing Forest Committee—he has been able to humanise the department more than it was ever done before, but I beg to point out that much more remains to be done. I see from the Memorandum on the Budget prepared by the Finance Secretary that the Forest division in Chingleput is proposed to be abolished. Yet there are forests which cannot be called forests by any stretch of the term as English language is spoken and understood, which are treated as forests. They are mere scrub jungles. You and I cannot even hide ourselves in them and yet they are treated as forests and the people are subjected to all sorts of inconveniences.

"In the very same place (Satyavedu) to which I was referring, there is such a scrub jungle which causes people a lot of inconvenience. This is a kind of jungle in which the cattle cannot graze and into which man cannot go. These jungles are still under the administration of the Forest department. I consider that if only these things are brought to the notice of the hon. the Home Member, he will either have them disafforested or give them away to the forest panchayat for management.

"In the course of the speeches of hon. Members opposite a great deal has been said about nominations by the Local Self-Government Department and I cordially agree with the plea raised by the hon. Member for the Landholders' constituency—I am glad that he has at last remembered that he

12-30
p.m.

[Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar]

[6th March 1926]

represents the landholders—that personalities ought to be excluded as far as possible. Now, in these matters there must be an attempt at *quid pro quo*, give and take. That is the policy which appeals to me. I do not believe in the ethical and Christian policy, at least in politics of turning your right cheek when the left cheek is slapped. I believe in hitting back and giving blow for blow. I think that if hon. Members make wild statements and criticise unfairly, while bound by the limitations of Parliamentary etiquette, they are bound to receive what they give, perhaps with double force.

“One hon. Member gave an illustration of a nomination that would not be justified with reference to South Arcot. Without going into personalities I can mention at least seven gentlemen sitting on the Opposition benches who have been nominated by the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government.”

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“A word of personal explanation, Sir. I would not support the Minister for Local Self-Government as long as he nominates even Members on this side of the House, if such nominations did not come within the principles enunciated by the Act.”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“I merely pointed out that I could mention seven gentlemen on the Opposition side who have been nominated by the hon. Minister for Local Self-Government obviously according to the theory of my hon. Friend for purpose of strengthening the party.”

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“I never said it. I said ‘used in a manner that was not meant to be used by the Act’.”

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“I do not want to pursue the matter. Hon. Members can see nothing good that comes out of our administration and out of whatever we do and whatever administration we are responsible for. Although I am not responsible for any part of the administration I use the expression ‘we’ because we have all been made responsible, as the party in power, for our Ministerial acts and I acknowledge our share. Whatever we do, whatever legislation we pass and whatever administrative acts we are responsible for, hon. Members are out there to criticise. Why, Sir, the Hindu Religious Endowments Act in favour of which something has been said now was an Act that was criticised over and over again. No legislative measure of ours—the Andhra University Bill, the Madras University Bill, the Religious Endowments Bill—has been spared by hon. Members opposite. Hon. Members, if they had been in the wilderness, would have criticised the Ten Commandments as a piece of oppressive legislation. That is the frame of mind of hon. Members. We know that and we know that the election is coming on. They cannot afford to do any other thing in that frame of mind and we take their criticisms at that value which undoubtedly should be attached to criticisms that come from such important and such fair and such just sources.

“My hon. Friend spoke of the little that has been done in the Transferred departments. Just this morning I was comparing the budget introduced in the year 1921-22 and the budget that has been introduced this year. It is only those that cannot see, those that will not see and those that do not wish to see or hear that can fail to see the difference between the two budgets. There is enormous increase made in the progress of nation-building departments, great impetus has been given to education, innumerable primary schools have been opened, a large number of hospitals have sprung up and medical relief has been brought within the reach of many. You did not hear

6th March 1926] [Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar]

of Ayurvedic hospitals before. You did not have more than one medical college. You did not have medical schools more than two or three. You did not have so many dispensaries. You did not have such a grand scheme of medical relief and you did not have so many village roads as now. You did not have wells sunk as you have now. All that is clean forgotten. My hon. Friends are always in a chronic state of discontent. I do not agree and I do not want to imitate them. I heard a story the other day or at least read it in one of Addison's papers—a great essay writer—he tells us that when in one of his perambulations he came across an old gentleman who was selling pills, he asked him what they were for, his reply was that they were pills to prevent earthquakes in Ireland. I hope there is no Irish member here to quarrel with me. It seems to me, hon. Members are prescribing pills for the prevention of earthquakes although we are not having such disasters here. Our policy was, as I said in my budget speech in 1923 facing the general election, something attempted, something done. I shall say, when I face the elections again that our policy this time has been something more attempted and something better done."

MR. ABBAS ALI KHAN SAHIB :—"I rise also to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member for the able and lucid way in which he has presented the budget to us. It is an honest and businesslike budget which only a canny Scotchman like the Finance Member can produce. I must not forget to congratulate his able understudy who has given us an excellent memorandum which is also very ably drafted.

"Coming now to the various departments of Government, I will first of all come to the hon. the Law Member—the Leader of the House. Yesterday the hon. Member for Guntūr levelled a charge that his schemes are wild and worth nothing. But I can say as an elected Member of this House that projects like Mettur, Sangameswaram and Tungabhadra are food and water to the men who work and till the soil in the burning sun and that they bring prosperity, contentment and joy to millions of human beings. I congratulate the hon. the Law Member for inaugurating that great scheme which is calculated to irrigate thousands of acres of barren lands and deserts of the four districts Salem, Coimbatore, Tanjore and Trichinopoly, and bring contentment to millions of poverty stricken people in those districts. It is due to his extraordinary industry that he was able to inaugurate this scheme. Whatever may be the verdict of this House there can be only one verdict which history can give and that is that he is a man who will be remembered by the people with gratitude and also with gratefulness. His memory will be cherished with the same affection and love as the memory of Col. Penny-quick who is the father of the Periyar scheme.

"Now, as regards the Police administration, Sir, I must say that the tone and the morale of especially the C.I.D. officials has improved enormously. The C.I.D. officials do not do their duty in the old ostentatious and pompous way. Whatever they do, they do in as inoffensive and unobtrusive a way as possible. There has been a very satisfactory increase in the number of deputy superintendents of police from among the Muhammadan community. But in the cadre of inspectors and sub-inspectors that proportion has not been maintained. I hope the hon. the Law Member will see that this defect is remedied at a very early date.

[Mr. Abbas Ali Khan Sahib]

[6th March 1926]

"Now coming to the department of Civil Justice, I find that the increase in the stamp duties is throttling litigation. Litigation is a criterion of civilization (Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi: Hear, hear) and to make litigation costly is to deny the poor litigant easy and speedy justice in courts of law.

"Having said so much about the hon. the Law Member and the departments under his control, I proceed to congratulate the hon. the Revenue Member for passing the Village Officers Restoration Bill which has put an end to a good deal of excitement and discontent among the lower classes of Government servants. But I want to bring one fact to his notice. It is this: under the Standing Orders of the Government no lands under the Periyar area can be assigned to the people. Every such land should be auctioned. I have myself seen many poor families squatting upon such lands removing prickly pears and cultivating puduval having had to pay penal assessment also. When they have cultivated the land for two or three years the Tahsildar makes a report that the particular land is fit for auction. On this, the Collector issues a notice and the land is auctioned. A sowcar from Madura goes and purchases the land and drives out the man who made it cultivable and actually cultivated it. This man becomes practically a serf under him with the result that we feel that there is absolutely no inducement for people to improve the lands. This should not be the policy of the Government. I request that the lands should be assigned to people who reclaim them.

"I want to mention another thing. It seems to me that deputy collectors and others were at one time under the control of the hon. the Revenue Member. Their promotion, etc., depended upon the Revenue Secretary and they were practically under the personal control of the hon. Member for Revenue. Now there seems to be a change and in consequence there is a good deal of grievance and heart-burning. This was brought to my notice by a number of people. I wish that something is done to these people and the *status quo ante* restored.

"Coming now to the hon. the Home Member I hope he has not forgotten that he was one of us last year and that he is going to be one among us four years hence. That is our attitude. I only beg of him to do this thing. In his department, I understand, Sir, probably I may be wrong, the bell chain system still continues. I hope he will see that this inhuman and cruel system is removed at a very early date. Although I am not a non-official jail visitor when I was in the Andamans it struck me that the Government have completely lost sight of the fact that what the prisoners want is moral and religious instruction. These alone would reclaim them. When I was staying with a friend of mine in Italy at Verone I was shown a provincial jail there and I was surprised to find a prelate from the Vatican taking a number of convicts through a course of religious instruction. This kind of religious instruction improves the morale of the convicts. I pray and beg of him to make suitable provision for imparting religious instruction in jails according to the communities.

"Coming to the Transferred half I am still distressed to find that Agriculture and Co-operation are kept separate. Mr. Raifeissen, the father of rural co-operation has said that to separate the two departments would be committing spicide. I pointed this out two years ago but nothing has been

6th March 1926]

[Mr. Abbas Ali Khan Sahib]

done till now ; and therefore this amounts to committing suicide twice over. It is a strange anomaly that Agriculture and Co-operation should be separated. Then, Sir, I appeal to the hon. the Minister for Development to take early steps to close such costly luxuries as the fish-curing yards and the jam factories. The Englishmen do not consider our preparations as sufficiently scientific. Moreover the Englishmen get cheaper goods direct from Australia or England. Indians do not generally use canned foods. When the Government department sell at 13 annas a tin, the Australian or English goods are sold at 6 annas a tin. I think it is better that all these departments are scrapped up. If the hon. Minister wants to start an industry, let him start a small cycle tyre industry. We have got all the raw materials such as rubber, sulphur, etc., and the Government may employ some experts from America or England and manufacture them on a small scale. Other people can easily copy this and it will be of use to them also. We need not go to jam factories and fish-curing yards.

"As regards education, I wanted myself to bring in a Tamil University Bill ; but from the way in which confusion arose between the Madras University and the Andhra University I thought it better to wait till the next session. There is a general cry that after the Reforms, Muhammadans have not been duly represented in the two departments administered by Sir Patro, namely, the Department of Education and the Department of Registration. The Muhammadan element has been falling off in both these departments and no attempt is being made to replace them by Muhammadans. This is a perpetual cry in our community and every time we are confronted with the electorate they ask us : ' Why are you supporting the Ministry ; what are the Ministers doing for our community ? ' They use you as a ladder and immediately they rise up they kick you down as unnecessary. When such is the case why do you support the Ministry ? ' All the same, the fact remains that there is an impression that Muhammadans are let down very badly.

"As regards the departments administered by the hon. the Raja of Panagal, I can say this much. Probably I will be the only Member of this House who will support his Bill containing a provision that the executive officers should be independent of the chairmen. I have had considerable experience of the municipality and I can say that the affairs are far from satisfactory. For instance, if a member belonging to the party of the chairman brings in a resolution his party supports it ; if a member belonging to the other party brings in a resolution the chairman overrules it as being out of order, or he adopts some other means. For instance, recently in Madura the chairman took nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours to write a few sentences ; he adopted this method because he knew full well that if the clock struck 8 all the members would go away. There is a good deal of corruption and party feeling and acrimonious discussion. All that leads nowhere. In almost all these municipalities, in the Madura municipality also, I know the proceedings are just like the proceedings of the Corporation of Madras. (Cries of ' Oh ! ') A good deal of time is wasted. For instance 25 thousand rupees of the public money is eaten away in a certain municipality ; a packed committee is appointed to enquire into the matter ; it exonerates some people and frames charges against the poor subordinates. There must be an independent official agency to inspect the accounts and go into the matter impartially and

[Mr. Abbas Ali Khan Sahib]

[6th March 1926]

report to the Government to take suitable steps. As regards the nominations to the local boards, I know there is a good deal of heart-burning and discontent all over the place. I can well realize the attitude of the Ministerialists. The Ministerialists, when they attend a marriage procession want to be the bridegroom; and when they attend a funeral want to be the corpse; I have no objection to let them be so."

* Mr. D. MANJAYYA HEGGADE :—" Mr. President, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak to-day on the budget for this year. Before proceeding to pass any remarks on the budget, I think it is my duty to thank the hon. the Finance Member and congratulate him for the financial statement which he has presented to us in this Council. The statement is remarkable for its grasp of principle and its mastery of details. Regarding the nature of the budget as presented to this House, I have no more to say than the previous speakers who are disappointed and dissatisfied with it. The hon. Member himself in presenting the budget expressed his disappointment that he was not able to place before the Council a more attractive picture of our financial position. Certainly it is not attractive as might have been expected; it is, on the other hand, a sombre picture of disproportionate dimensions. Anyhow I must thank the hon. Member for hoping for better prospects next year.

" Regarding the increased expenditure on various heads, I have different opinions; some are welcome while others are not. Expenditure on education, medical relief, sanitation, industry and agriculture are not matters of anxiety. They are welcome. People will not only not grudge such expenditure but regard it with satisfaction and gratitude, provided these allotments are reasonably and honestly utilized. But expenditure on Forest, Excise, Police etc., are much resented.

" Let me congratulate the hon. the Minister for Education for his ardent desire and determination to extend the primary education throughout the Presidency, in which, I think, he has succeeded to some extent. The additional expenditure on this head which amounts to ten lakhs of rupees is very much appreciated. From what has been so far done regarding the elementary education, we can infer that the Government have accepted in an explicit manner their responsibility for mass education. I hope that the red letter day when compulsory elementary education will be introduced throughout the Presidency is not far off. So far so good. But in this connexion, I cannot but draw the attention of the Government to the conditions of the poor elementary school teachers in whose hands the destiny of the younger generation rests. The scale of pay of teachers in elementary schools, especially under the local boards, is poor and not uniform. I speak from my knowledge of the state of affairs in the district of South Kanara and I believe these conditions may be similar in other districts also. Some taluk boards have no definite scale at all. They pay according to the nature of their demand and supply. Whereas in some taluks of the same district the teacher is given comparatively a higher initial pay and increments according to a definite scale; it may be said that all taluks have not the same financial resources and each taluk has to fix the salaries according to its resources. It is right from the standpoint of each taluk; but from the standpoint of a district which consists of different taluk boards, it does not look well. It is detrimental to the interests of the district as a whole regarding the progress

6th March 1926]

[Mr. D. Manjappa Heggade]

of primary education. It will be better and more conducive to the efficiency of the teaching staff in all the taluk boards of a district if a uniform scale of pay is adopted and maintained. I therefore appeal to the hon. the Education Minister on behalf of the elementary school teachers who unfortunately get less than their brother teachers of equal merit and responsibilities, to take such steps as to bring about uniformity in their pay and other allowances. May I suggest that this can be done by handing over all elementary schools to the District Educational Council, more funds being provided for them and by making the taluk boards contribute from their education funds towards the maintenance of such schools?

"One more achievement of the hon. the Minister for Education is the inauguration of the Andhra University for the development of Andhra culture and literature. In the budget one lakh of rupees is set apart for the initial expenditure of the new University and it is all right for the Andhras. But one thing that pains me most is the indifference and disregard shown to the feelings of the Kanarese people. There was, and there is, a strong opposition to the forcible inclusion of the six Kanarese speaking taluks of Bellary district within the jurisdiction of the Andhra University. Many attempts have been made to make the Government realize the difficulties of those Kanarese people by being cut off from their brethren in other parts of the Presidency. Agitation is still going on and before it reaches a higher stage, I hope the Minister for Education who has won much popularity by enlarging elementary education, by creating a new University, by promising to lead the province to total prohibition in the matter of drinking in the course of a few years, will not be unpopular among the Kanarese people by denying their just and reasonable demand. I think it is yet not too late for him to earn the lasting gratitude of the Kanarese people by kindly excluding those Kanarese portions of Bellary from the operation of the Andhra University Act.

"Now, regarding the Excise policy, I have nothing to say except that the Government would give due regard to the decision of this House in the last Council and will adhere to a policy that will lead to total prohibition within a reasonable period, say, 10 or 15 years.

"Regarding the allotment made for medical relief and public health and allotment for the maintenance of roads and bridges, I may say that they are very much appreciable. One thing I regret to say is that out of five lakhs of rupees, only a sum of Rs. 34,000 is set apart for expanding the scheme of medical relief in rural parts. Surely this sum cannot bring medical relief to the doors of the people as it is intended by the Government. It may at times stop half way, for I know several times some of these dispensaries run short of drugs on account of small allotments made to them. Ayurvedic dispensaries will be more popular and economical.

"The local boards in the district of South Kanara proposed to open a few Ayurvedic dispensaries, and for the matter of that one or two dispensaries were opened and they for some time flourished and were well attended too. Later, they were closed for want of funds. Sir, I beg to submit that the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government whom I congratulate on his earnest desire to develop our national Ayurvedic system of medicine by opening these institutions, which are the real monuments of his patriotism, might be

[Mr. D. Manjappa Heggade]

[6th March 1926]

pleased to provide larger funds to the local bodies. May I also suggest that some definite provision be made in the new scheme for aid to rural dispensaries for the maintenance of a qualified midwife also, a want much felt by the people of the rural parts. One other grievance is about the improvement of the malarial parts of South Kanara. Nothing is provided for it specially. I request the hon. the Minister to provide funds to Health Officers to adopt such measures as are necessary to drive this malaria from the interior.

“Turning now to grants to local bodies for the maintenance of roads and bridges the grand total for 1926-27 is found to be Rs. 39,10,000. This amount for the whole Presidency seems to be hardly sufficient. In making allotments, however, the attention of the hon. the Chief Minister is drawn to consider specially the case of poor local boards. In this connexion, I cannot but make a few remarks on the condition of the roads of South Kanara, and I think that I may not be much in the wrong if I include other districts also. The roads are badly maintained and in spite of the new taxes of various kinds the local bodies have imposed on the poor tax ridden rate-payers, the general complaint is the want of funds when the question of improving the roads and bridges comes in. This matter has been sufficiently brought to the notice of the Government in a number of questions put from time to time, on this subject in this Council and yet the conditions do not seem to have improved. It is urged, therefore, that the Government do take steps to induce the local boards to maintain the roads in proper condition.”

“Now with reference to the allotment for re-survey and settlement it is an unnecessary expenditure. As a landowner, I feel the heavy impending burden. Though this subject is reserved, as a matter of duty to my electorate and to myself I take this opportunity to ventilate the grievances and hardships of the landholders and poor ryots particularly of South Kanara. The recent floods washed clean several parts of the district rendering many poor ryots and merchants hopeless and helpless. Almost all the cultivating fields lying close to rivers and streams have been buried under sand rendering cultivation impossible. Coconut pest had already done much havoc in many coconut plantations and recently the paddy crop pest caused considerable loss to ryots. On these matters the official reports may be hopeful but in fact the prospects are anything but satisfactory. The paddy crop of this year is very discouraging and when everything is gloomy re-survey work has been commenced. In view of all these grievances the Government will be pleased, I hope, to appoint a committee consisting of official and non-official members to inquire into the grievances of the ryots and landholders before resettlement is commenced.”

“I thank the hon. the Home Member for his liberal policy in his forest administration and I hope he will carefully consider the suggestion of hon. Members of this House to entrust to the village panchayats the forest administration. My grievances about forest are these: the boundary line of the reserved forests runs too close to the arable lands in our district; consequently the wild animals of these forests descend into the fields and cause considerable loss to the ryots year after year. I am afraid if the boundary line is not removed to a distance of at least one mile from the very verge of the cultivating lands, they will have to be left uncultivated. There are already many cultivating fields

6th March 1926] [Mr. D. Manjappa Heggade]

lying fallow chiefly due to the trouble of the wild beasts. The paddy-crop pest is another product of these thickly grown forests near the cultivating fields.

"Another regrettable thing to which the attention of the hon. Home Member is drawn is the prevention by the Forest authorities of removing firewood and green leaves from the reserved forests by poor ryots, and lastly the enhanced grazing fee demanded for cattle by the authorities concerned. So I appeal to the hon. the Home Member to take early steps to redress the grievances just narrated by me.

"Sir, now, I thank and congratulate the hon. the Law Member for the many great things he has achieved during his official years. It is true that several lakhs of rupees are proposed to be spent on irrigation works such as Mettur project, etc.; the expenditure does not make us feel much.

"Now turning to the retrenchment policy adopted by the Government with reference to the Police department. I say a few words. The Government are going to abolish police stations in various districts. In our district of South Kanara, I learn that four or five police stations are going to be abolished. I say, Sir, the Government are not taking the right step in this matter. Because nowadays when the political agitation is raging in one form or the other, when there is an air of obstinacy and disregard towards law and authority, now when people are more ready to go against law and order than before, I think it is not proper to reduce the strength of the police force in the country. To the interest of both the Government and country, it must be left untouched. Of the four police stations proposed to be dis-established in South Kanara district, I say it is not good. Because almost all of them are situated in the remotest parts of the district, the police station at Charmadi is situated on the very boundary of Mysore state in the most interior part of the district. If these stations are removed, then it is very hard for people of rural parts to live safely in these hard times. Therefore I appeal to the hon. Law Member to reconsider the matter and drop the idea of abolishing them, particularly those police stations which are in the remotest corners of the district.

"Sir, I once again thank the hon. Financial Member for his sincerity and open-mindedness and courage with which he placed his Financial Statement before this House in which he has made us hope for better prospects in the coming year."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Sir, there are two matters on which I am as usual very keen. The first is about the large sums of money that are as usual spent upon the construction of the Government buildings and secondly the way in which the rural population of the Presidency has been treated by the Government in both the Reserved and the Transferred halves. It is all right for us to construct big and palatial buildings for officers to live in, if we can afford to do that. But the series of deficit budgets that we have been having for some years clearly show that we must put off construction of such big buildings in favour of more urgent needs of the Presidency. Sir, lakhs and lakhs of money are being spent on buildings which can as well afford to wait for some time. I can give you one instance. Last year, I had no opportunity of contesting the necessity of building a separate block for the Small Cause Court in Madras. I believe, Sir, that the Government ought to take into account, when they are constructing such buildings,

i p.m.

[Mr. K. Koti Reddi]

[6th March 1926]

the fact that the time will soon come—I do not think it is far off—when the province will have to be separated. If we are to have a Telugu Province, a Tamil Province, a Kerala Province for which we are all agitating, there would be no need to have a big High Court in Madras. The Andhra Province will not be satisfied with a High Court located at Madras. Probably they will have a High Court in the Andhra Province and another in the Tamil Province. The day will not be far off. It will be within 10 or 15 years. When such is the case, where is the necessity for building a separate block for the Small Cause Court? Suppose we have a High Court for the Andhra Province. Five or six Judges would be enough for Madras. We have waited for a large number of years without a separate block. Can we not wait for ten years more? This is an instance where the Government can put off the construction of a separate block for the Small Cause Court particularly in view of the fact that there is a big agitation in the Tamil and Telugu countries for having their own provinces with the result that they would have their own High Courts.

“Secondly, I wish to say that I am not against the Government spending money on building residential quarters for officers. There are certain places where residential quarters are necessary. It is better that the Government build quarters for officers. But my complaint is this: so far as the budget is concerned, I wish to point out that no separate accounts are kept for residential quarters and for offices, so that we are not in a position to know what exactly is the amount that is being spent for maintenance of residential quarters. So far as the residential quarters are concerned, the Government should see that these buildings pay their own way though the Government need not actually make a profit out of them. Are the accounts kept separately to see whether this is true or not? I do not want that the Government should be put to loss on account of residential buildings. Ten per cent of the pay of officers is deducted for occupying Government buildings. No doubt we are paying high salaries for most of the officials. My complaint is not about that point. I believe the time will come when this Presidency cannot afford to pay the amount of salaries they are paid now. We will have to reduce the salaries. What will be the result? Even supposing that the Government is making enough money by way of rentals calculating on the present basis of the salaries, if we reduce the salaries the result will be that the Government will be put to a loss. The Government should always have that fact in mind. If the Government shows at least that it is not incurring any loss for the construction and maintenance of residential buildings I will be satisfied. I think it is not so. Take an instance. A sum of Rs. 70,000 has been spent on a residential building for the District Judge in Cuddapah. Generally, the Government buildings are very costly. If a private person undertakes such works, they will not cost him so highly. People would pay only a sum of Rs. 30,000 for the building at Cuddapah I referred to. That is how the Government money is being spent. Again, provision has been made for a Court-house in Kurnool and one in Anantapur. Whereas a sum of nearly two lakhs of rupees has been provided for the construction of a court-house at Anantapur, a sum of three lakhs of rupees is provided for that at Kurnool. There is a difference of one lakh of rupees between the amounts provided for the construction of the court-houses at Kurnool and at Anantapur. I do not understand this difference. The same is the case with regard to the residential quarters also.

6th March 1926]

[Mr. K. Koti Reddi]

"The second point which I wish to refer to is that I in this House have been complaining time after time that the money we are spending for the rural classes is not sufficient. What is the amount of taxes they pay and what is the return they are getting? They do not get what is their due. I wish to know how far this Government is benefitting the rural population from whom they get the main portion of the taxes. Take the Medical Department. It is no doubt being said that we have so many dispensaries and hospitals. It is true that we have a large number of hospitals. Most of the amount goes for the equipment and improvement of the hospitals which are situated in big centres. This year also a great portion of the money is going to be spent on headquarter hospitals. How far are the villagers benefitted by the headquarter hospitals? If statistics is taken of the number of people who resort to these hospitals from the villages it will be found that it is comparatively small. The hospital authorities are not generally sympathetic towards the villagers resorting to these hospitals. Somehow or other, the complaint seems to be—I do not want to be bitter—that the hospital authorities rarely sympathise with the villagers because the habits of these villagers are different from those of the people in the towns. The inherent nature of the town people is they do not ordinarily sympathise with the villagers with the result that the latter are not favourably treated. I will give one instance."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"If the hon. Member is going into such things seriatim he will take more of the time available to other hon. Members. The hon. Member can deal with the matter in a comprehensive way."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"I will give an instance. A man in a village was suffering from an acute disease in the eye and he was about to commit suicide. I took him personally from his village to the Ophthalmic Hospital in Madras two years ago. He was there for two or three months. He was cured and went home. Some time after that, he had a similar complaint. I said I could not spare time, but under the full belief that he would be treated fairly in the hospital I sent him here. He was told 'You have come to eat here'. That is the way in which that man was treated in the Ophthalmic Hospital. He went away to Bangalore. That is the way how villagers are treated."

"Coming to Public Health, I must say that, with all the energy of the hon. the Minister, very little is proposed to be spent on public health. No doubt a number of officers have been appointed. But what can these officers do without the money required? As a matter of fact there is no provision this year for rural water-supply. Last year there was a provision of 6 lakhs of rupees for this purpose. I do not know how much of this provision was spent and how much was unspent. No separate provision has been made this year for the improvement of rural communications.

"Only a very small amount is being spent for the extension of primary education. With regard to secondary education, the complaint from the rural population is that, though there are high schools in towns, they do not benefit the rural population. They want middle schools in rural areas. I know that people of the villages go to towns. But they command no convenience in the towns and they are really spoiled. Unless the Government

[Mr. K. Koti Reddi]

[6th March 1926]

is prepared to spend a lot of money on hostels where rural people can reside, there is no use of voting any money for high schools and colleges. I would vote down such amount.

“What I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. the Revenue Member is this: No doubt a sum of 4 lakhs of rupees is provided in the budget for minor irrigation. But that is absolutely insufficient. I will give an instance of the way in which this department of minor irrigation is working. The owners of a tank are being called upon to contribute a sum of Rs. 212 out of the sum of Rs. 280 required.”

* Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI:—“Sir, I will begin by congratulating the hon. the Finance Member for the budget he has presented, because I believe congratulations are due to him because of the labour he has bestowed upon the budget. I was sorry to see very few people congratulate him. We must congratulate him just as you congratulate a student on passing through an examination or a newly married couple. It is a formality and I do not see why we should deny him that. After all what is his part in the work? The administration is a huge machine in which the hon. the Finance Member is a wheel or possibly a tooth; it may be a sharp tooth or a flat tooth. His ability to impress upon the administration of finance however strenuous he may be is very limited and therefore I would be the last person to accuse the hon. the Finance Member or the Members of the Finance Committee for any defect in the budget or for any advantage in the budget. I want to present to this House a far different story than that presented by the other hon. Members. The hon. the Finance Member is the President of the Finance Committee. I was in the Finance Committee. I sympathise with him. Item after item is presented to the Finance Committee. It is difficult for us to come to one conclusion or the other. So far as I am able to see, the whole expenditure is spent on two items either for the salary of the permanent officials or in providing buildings for Government officers and offices. On both these items the whole lot of our income that we derive is spent. You must put a stop to these two items; you must reduce the pay of all officials under Government. India is a poor country. We cannot afford to pay them salaries on the scale of competition held in the European countries. We cannot pay any officer on the foreign competitive basis. We have instances of men with a large income giving up that income and taking up Government appointment here; they do so not merely for the money but for the influence which the appointment carries with it, or from a sense of public duty put it in whichever way you like. The fact is that men of the greatest ability are available to take up the administrative work not necessarily for the pay they will get. I do not want that a large amount of money should be spent on buildings or officials.

“As my hon. Friend from Tinnevely, Mr. Subramania Pillai, mentioned, money should be spent on irrigation and agriculture. The average villager is not benefited by your large schemes like the Mettur project. I take it they have their own advantage. But I want to present to the hon. the Law Member the fact that in Travancore they have what is known as the Pachipari anicut. Speculations were rife and when the whole scheme was completed it was found that water convenience was not the only convenience which was required. They felt the want of agriculturists. It was difficult

6th March 1926]

[Mr. P. N. Marthandam Pillai]

to supply the villagers and agriculturists with manure. Unless you put the reform of agriculture and irrigation on a scientific basis and automatically improve the existing sources of irrigation, the villagers will not be benefited to the extent to which they ought to be benefited.

1-15
p.m.

"I do not condemn any projects which are intended to be put in execution by the hon. the Law Member, such as the Mettur project and others, but I do want to urge upon his attention that if he should benefit the agricultural population—I mean the villagers—the only way in which he can do it is by putting the system of irrigation on a scientific basis, viz., that if a village tank contributes Rs. 1,000 per year, he must spend Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 on that tank so that the benefit which may be derived from it may go to the villagers who have been paying the money from time immemorial and as a result of which the coffers of the Government are filled. The Mettur project and other projects may benefit the Presidency as a whole. They do not benefit a ryot who has settled in the Tambraparni valley. I would therefore urge on the attention of the hon. the Law Member to take up the whole question of the reform of irrigation system in the Presidency by putting it on a scientific basis, i.e., by spending a portion of the revenue derived from irrigation sources for the repair thereof. Well, they may say that they have no money. I ask, have not the Government found money for expenditure in other directions for the Malabar rebellion or the Fituri? Therefore, want of finance is a defence which we cannot accept. If you are to look to the national prosperity and the betterment of the villagers, you must see that people who pay taxes are benefited.

"One word more and I shall conclude. So far as the question of establishment of a Tamil University is concerned, there is a crying need in the whole Tamil country for the establishment of such a University. If the hon. Member from Madura says 'no', I leave it to him to say whether he is justified in assuming that attitude. The other day the hon. the Minister for Education very cleverly replied to the Trichinopoly Conference that a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs would have to be collected and if that is done then there would be no difficulty in establishing a Tamil University. Sir, this reminds me of a certain story; A goldsmith who was asked to make a jewel when asked whether he had finished making the jewel replied 'no'. The next time when he was asked he replied the same thing. The third time when he was asked he easily found a remedy and replied thus:—'Well, you had better find the gold and I will make the jewel.' The next time when the goldsmith was asked about the jewel, he replied 'have you purchased the gold which is necessary for making the jewel?'. The owner of the jewel became disgusted asking the goldsmith about it and kept quiet and the goldsmith thus escaped from the difficulty. Such is the way in which the hon. the Minister for Education has solved this question. He thinks it would be impossible to find the ten lakhs of rupees necessary for the establishment of a Tamil University and therefore thinks that the question can be shelved for the present. I want the hon. the Minister for Education to take a more serious view of the whole question and see whether he cannot give us a Tamil University."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—"It has been stated that the general discussion on the budget gives room to every one of the Members of this House to speak at any length and on whatever subject it

[Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu]

[6th March 1926]

might be. I do not like to talk in hackneyed phrases in which references have been made against Members of Government. For the last five and a half years we have been listening to speeches of this sort—some of which yet very good—in which references have been made to the grievances of the people and it matters very little if such occasions are taken advantage of to draw forth an arrow on this Member of the Government or on that. Possibly the phalanx of the Government is strong enough to receive as many arrows and more as are in the armoury of the Opposition Members. To my mind it occurs that the discussion did not crystallize into any definite form, not because I deprecate the speeches that have been made, but because it seems to me that a general discussion of this sort is a relic of the old system when the Legislative Council had no powers of expressing their grievances and when they had no power of voting on the various items such as we have to-day. This is merely a suggestion and I only request the Government to look into this question and see whether it would not be desirable if these three days which are allotted for the general discussion of the budget might not altogether be given over and the other time which is allotted for the voting of grants may also be utilized for this purpose. At any rate, a discussion on these three days might be restricted to the main principles of the budget and the financial conditions generally, so that a detailed discussion of the various items might be relegated to those days when we come to vote upon them. This is merely a suggestion (Voices: 'for the next year').

"Sir, coming to the subject itself, for my own part, I do not wish to get away from this House without joining the various other Members of this House in their congratulations which, I may say, they have so respectfully paid to the hon. the Finance Member. Apprehensions are no doubt entertained that this is a deficit budget and explanations have been given. For my part, I do not dread a deficit budget as much as I dread a surplus budget, and when it is remembered that this deficit is entirely due to money spent on projects which would never have been begun, I am not at all able to see why there should be so much apprehension about the deficit. Let it also be remembered that 70 or 80 items go to the transferred subjects as non-recurring grants. I really do not see why any one should entertain any apprehensions on this budget.

"Having said so much, my next submission is that I have no grievance against any one Member of the Government from the lowest of the cadre to the topmost. If I had any grievances, I could have expressed them on other occasions. At any rate, it is not right for us to take this opportunity for piling up grievances after grievances against Government Members.

"There is, however, one other observation which I wish to make and which I hope will be received in the spirit in which it is made. I make it not because I am dissatisfied with this Member or that Member or the Government as a whole, not because the country has any great grievances against the Ministers or against the Councillors, but because if a suggestion can be thrown out it might be thrown out and it might be received by the Government and considered if it deserves any consideration. It is this: I have always believed, and many Members will agree with me there, that the functions of a Government in this advanced state of civilization are not confined merely to govern. There is a conception no doubt that Government's function is merely to govern, to carry on the administration, to

6th March 1926]

[Sir K. Venkatarreddi Nayudu]

preserve order and peace, to see that no disturbance takes place, to see that no injustice is done to any one, and, in their own way, to improve the benefits given to the people. One thing which I wish to place before the Government is whether they have got anything like a well-thought-out and considered programme of work for a number of years beginning from now, or from before so far, to be completed within the next five years or a decade. Viewed from this standpoint, one is doubtful whether the Government have any schemes of improvement, to use an economic phrase, of national wealth; for upon national wealth depends the happiness of the subjects. The second point that I wish to raise is whether they have raised the standard of living. Various opportunities are available in this land—let it be remembered that I am not saying that they are not doing anything at all in this direction and that it is one thing to talk of a particular thing and that it is another thing to carry it out—and I only ask whether they have any definite programme for a number of years, no matter whether these schemes are to be started out of your own money or from monies borrowed. I want to know whether they have got a scheme which may serve for a period of years so that even if the present Ministers or the Executive Councillors do not continue in their offices, those persons who take their places may carry on those schemes. It is in that light I make this criticism, and not that I expect any immediate answer from the Government as to whether it is possible to do this or that. Let them make a survey into these things and give us some definite and well-thought-out schemes for a number of years.

“The other thing is to raise the standard of living of the people. In order to achieve that purpose, the average daily wages of Indians must be raised.

“Well, Sir, these are the two aspects that I wish to place before this House and when I do so I should not be understood to have made these suggestions presuming things which I do not understand. I have got every admiration for every member of the Government. I am aware of their limitations. In these circumstances, I hope that both the Government and this House will understand the spirit in which I have offered these suggestions.

“Speaking of another item, I would say only one or two sentences and shall finish. It is well known that in this province one-fifth of the land is yet to be brought under cultivation. Government have recognized this and issued instructions to their officers in the districts. I believe a Government Order was issued in 1919 and another in 1921-22 on this matter. I wish to know whether some measures have been taken to improve agriculture in this province. Somehow or other the chastening influence of war is waning and probably we have settled down to normal conditions and things are not so pressing as they were five years ago with the result that if we want to achieve any real improvement in our lands it would be more desirable to spend on that department for the benefit of our people.

“Sir, I am aware that all these things cannot be done in a day. It means more money. But what I do say is that a more vigorous policy and more definite programme is essential in order to enable us to do something more definite for the benefit of our land.”

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“Mr. President, my hon. Friend, Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu, after six years' experience of this Council, said that these three days of general debate might be reduced to a zero.

[Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju]

[6th March 1926]

I think he has stated it after a considerable amount of experience and I hope he will accept an amendment of mine, viz., that all the forty-five days during which our Council sits may be safely omitted."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"I am told that the expediency of following such a course is being considered in some other quarters. I do not know that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has converted himself to that creed."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"The hon. Member will wait and see. The other words of wisdom he has uttered after three years of experience as Minister of this Council are that the Government should have a definite programme for the nation-building departments. If I remember right, he was in charge of the real nation-building departments, namely, Agriculture and Co-operation and I took it as a mere confession on his part when he said that nothing was done as a Minister in the nation-building departments."

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU:—"As a matter of personal explanation, Sir, if the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is ever entrusted with the administration of those departments, he will find enough of materials to show that his inference is wrong."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—"I may say that the Leader of the Opposition is far off under the present circumstances from such a prospect. Various speeches have been made by Members of this House belonging to various communities. The member belonging to the Indian Christian Community says that a member belonging to his own community should occupy a seat on the Treasury Bench; and a member belonging to another community says that a member belonging to his community should occupy a seat on the Treasury Bench. It comes to this: they want that the Treasury Bench should be an anthropological museum of various races and creeds. I do not look to the Treasury Bench in that light. To me it looks like a solar system and the Finance Member is really the Sun. The other six members do correspond to the planets. I do not call them satellites (laughter). Of course, in any Parliamentary system of Government the Chancellor of the Exchequer is the real central force. Whatever may be the form of Government, we may take it that the Finance Member will be the real sun. And the orbits in which the planets move, the velocity with which they move, and the manner in which they themselves rotate on their axis depend on their mass. It is an elementary principle of dynamics. If the three Ministers and the Members of this House do not have sufficient mass, I do not know where the blame is to be cast. Is it on account of any want of following or is it on account of the Government of India Act that makes them move in this unsatisfactory manner? When some of the planets move very near the sun, their real motion does appear to us who are looking from the opposite benches as retrograde. I do not want to pursue the analogy any further and I will be satisfied with mentioning one point that in this solar system there are the *Rahus* and the *Kethus*, the *Chchayagrahams*, the Ministers without their portfolios. Yesterday, my hon. Friend, Mr. Ethirajulu Nayudu, said that some Members of the Opposition were sticking to the coat tails of Brahman Members. I may return the compliment by saying that Ministers without portfolios have a higher status and even they are not able to effect any change for good in the administration of this province.

6th March 1926]

[Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju]

"I may now go on to examine some of the black spots in the sun, namely, the Finance Member. If we take the revenue receipts and expenditure, we find that except for one year, every year has closed with a deficit budget. In 1921-22 there was a deficit of 108·22 lakhs. I do not however hold the Ministers responsible for the deficit because it was the year when they came for the first time into the office and they did plainly say on that occasion that they were just carrying on the administration. But in 1922-23, on their responsibility taxation was raised by 50 per cent under Stamps and Registration; and in spite of that, the year closed with a deficit of 17·27 lakhs. The next year, 1923-24, there was again a deficit of 9·38 lakhs while in the year 1924-25 the deficit was 29·47 lakhs. In the current year there will be a plus balance, but the credit being mostly due to the Transferred departments because they had allowed certain amounts to lapse. Of the total amount lapsed, 3·51 lakhs, was under education and a lakh and a half was under Industries. The present surplus therefore is caused by the Transferred Half. For the year 1926-27, something like 76 lakhs is to be the deficit. But on account of the remission granted by the Government of India, the deficit will be about 19·46 lakhs. Even this is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. Sir, if we take into consideration the growth of revenue and the growth of expenditure we will see how bad our financial position is. I take the year 1922-23 as the standard for considering the revenues and the expenditure. The revenue in that year was 16,06·22 lakhs and the budgeted revenue for 1926-27 is 16,34·20 lakhs. This gives an increase of nearly 28 lakhs in our revenue. In the course of five years the revenue has expanded only by 28 lakhs in round figures. And we feel bound to remark that that is a rather tardy growth. But what has been the growth in the expenditure? It is something like 213 lakhs. The budgeted expenditure for 1926-27 is 17,10·66 lakhs while that for 1922-23 was 16,23·49 lakhs. That gives a balance of 87·17 lakhs. To this we have to add the remission by way of provincial contribution to the Imperial revenues which was 126 lakhs last year. The real growth of expenditure therefore comes to 213 lakhs. Comparing the increase in receipts and the growth of expenditure, it will be seen that the one bears no comparison with the other. The expenditure has increased tenfold as compared with the growth of receipts. Is it a satisfactory state of things?

"Sir, in this connexion, let me examine what the growth of expenditure in the Transferred Half has been during these five years. About 70 lakhs of rupees is to be spent in the next year for new schemes. What is the proportion between the Transferred and Reserved Half of the Government in this respect? According to the analysis given by the Finance Member in his report, it will be found that only 14·59 lakhs is to be spent on Education, 14·96 on Medical, 2·33 on Public Health, 1·78 on Agriculture, 1·96 on Industries and 7·72 on Grants to local bodies, making up a total of 33 lakhs and odd. The Reserved departments on the other hand under Irrigation, Forests, Police, Miscellaneous departments; Printing and Civil Buildings are given 36 lakhs."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I may point out that Civil Works are not works which are confined to the Reserved Half."

[6th March 1926]

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" Sir, I know that the whole of Civil Works does not come under the Reserved Half, but the Finance Member has not told us how much of this allotment is for the Transferred departments. I know that the whole of it is not for the Transferred Half. It may be that the amount may be divided equally between the two halves. It has been frequently said that whatever comes by way of remission of provincial contribution, the whole of it, or at least a major portion of it, will be utilized for the Transferred departments. Has the Government kept that promise? Far from it, the Finance Member suggested that no protest should be raised either in this House or in the Assembly as to the utilization of this remission."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" I fear the hon. Member has mistaken me, Sir. What I did press was that no support should be given either in this House or in the Assembly to any proposal to divert this remission into other channels lest it should be taken away from us and bestowed upon other provinces."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—" I am glad for the correction, Sir. I understood him to say that we should not suggest any alterations in the allocation of this amount. But the way in which the surplus revenues are proposed to be utilized is most unsatisfactory. As I have already remarked, it is perhaps due to the defective mass in the Ministers in effecting a complete diversion of this amount for nation-building purposes. In this connexion, I want to compare the growth of expenditure in the Reserved and the Transferred departments during the past five years. It looks very miserable if we take it into consideration. In 1922-23 the expenditure under Education was 154.44 lakhs, while in 1926-27 it is put at 189.93 lakhs. Similarly under Medical 56.36 lakhs and 60.76 respectively, while in Public Health 10.15 and 39.20, Agriculture 26.94 and 31.19, Industries 17.18 and 18.78. This gives us a total increase of 73 lakhs in all the departments in the Transferred Half. And the growth of expenditure on the whole has already been shown to be 213 lakhs. After all the growth of expenditure under the Transferred departments is only roughly about one-third of the total growth of expenditure. Most of this increase is by way of enhanced salaries to officers in the Transferred departments. Is this a satisfactory state of things and should it be allowed to continue? It looks clear to my mind that the departments have existed more for absorbing salaries than for any useful purpose."

"Sir, the hon. the Finance Member while introducing his budget said that there was some silver lining to the financial position of this Province in the hope of a remission in the provincial contribution. Already out of 318 lakhs that are to be remitted, a sum of 183 lakhs have been remitted to us. And the Finance Member has budgeted for an expenditure of about 19 lakhs more. Even taking that some amount is remitted next year, it will be found that only 145 lakhs will be remitted for future utilization. The Finance Member has dealt with the danger underlying the time-scale and the growth of expenditure year after year. He said that the growth of expenditure on this account would be from 9 to 10 lakhs every year. And he has not calculated when this growth of expenditure would stop; it may be thirty or twenty-five years when the maximum would be reached and it will not effect any fluctuation in our budgeting for the several departments."

6th March 1926]

[Mr. O. V. S. Narasimha Raju]

The time-scale was introduced with effect from 1921 or 1922, and some scales in 1923. These scales have been introduced during the course of two or three years, and we have yet to wait twenty years at least before the maximum rates are reached. Of course, we laymen cannot exactly say when the maximum will be reached, and it is up to the Finance Secretary or the Finance Member to mention to us what will be the maximum limit we are to reach, and how far we are committed by these time-scales, and how far we can afford to pay them. It is easy to say what it will be next year or in the year to come. My request to him is that he should take sufficient pains and settle and state before the House the extent to which we have to provide in years to come under this head. The growing revenues of the province are not at all sufficient and the question whether our financial position is satisfactory or not requires a further careful examination.

1-45
p.m.

"I wish to draw the attention of this House to the fact that the way in which expenditure is incurred and proposed to be incurred under the Mettur project is most unsatisfactory. A perusal of the report that was laid on the table shows that the higher authorities were assured that the financial returns would be satisfactory. On what basis the financial returns are satisfactory depends upon the levy of Rs. 15 an acre on dry lands to be cultivated and Rs. 1-8-0 or Rs. 2 on existing wet lands. Both these are leviable only when the Irrigation Bill becomes law. I see my hon. Friend opposite nods dissent, and so I may be permitted to explain what I mean. Under the existing Tanjore irrigation, not a single pie can be levied by the Government on inam lands unless the new Bill becomes law. I can safely assert to that effect, because it is only in that Bill that a provision exists that the improvement of the existing sources of irrigation gives the right to Government to levy cess on existing wet lands. Regarding the levy of high rates of Rs. 15, Government have not got the right under the existing law. There is a chapter in the new Irrigation Bill, chapter 6 or 7, which enables the Government to refer the whole matter as a sort of referendum to the people that are to be benefited, and if the majority of the people that are to be benefited by the project consent to the levy of Rs. 15 rate, then only it becomes leviable, and when that is the state of things, before it becomes law, and when it has not at all taken a practical shape or before the referendum is yet to be made to the people, I ask the Finance Member whether he is justified in allowing the expenditure under this head." (At this stage the gong was sounded and the speaker resumed his seat).

*Diwan Bahadur P. KESAVA PILLAI :—"Sir, I rise to make just a few observations. I am glad, and, I think, it is a matter for congratulation that Mr. Moir is in the Government and that he is the Finance Member. I have read of Mr. Moir's work in the Cuddapah district as a Settlement Officer, assisted by Mr. Davies. The people of Cuddapah are grateful to him even to-day, for they say that his settlements were just and equitable. He has much knowledge of the people, and we may expect him to be sympathetic in dealing with questions that may crop up now and then about the increase of settlement rates in other districts. He knows that Anantapur is a famine-stricken district. The Government would increase the wet assessment by 12½ per cent as my hon. Friend Mr. Rameswara Rao has pointed out, and in consideration of the famine-stricken condition of the people and of the poor yield I trust and hope that the hon. the Revenue Member will see that no increase is made.

[Mr. P. Kesava Pillai]

[6th March 1926]

"There is another point I would mention. I have known Mr. Moir as Private Secretary to Lord Pentland, at any rate to me, of beloved memory. And I have known his views also on politics with which many of us differed at the time, and I believe, Mr. Moir may remember that we were all up in arms against the Government at the time, I mean many of the leaders of Madras, Brahman as well as non-Brahman leaders, participated in the protest meeting; and I had the honour of presiding over it. Distinguished public men like the Rt. hon. Srinivasa Sastri, Kasturiranga Ayyangar, Dr. Subramania Ayyar, Diwan V. P. Madhava Rao, N. Subba Rao, B. N. Sarma and my hon. friend Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar participated in the meeting. That was an extraordinary meeting of indignant protest against the action of Government in internment Mrs. Besant and her two friends Messrs. Arundale and Wadia for carrying on a raging and intense agitation for Home Rule. The Public of this Presidency were much excited. But our strong protests did not affect or alter my relationship with Lord Pentland or Mr. Moir. The Government were whipping us then with cat-o-nine-tails but now they are whipping us with scorpions ('Hear, hear'). I have no time to enter into the details of the present situation and I do hope that things would soon improve.

"One other subject I would touch upon, that is labour. My hon. Friend Muhammad Usman Sahib is in charge; and I am sure he will pay very sympathetic and vigilant attention to this subject. I hope that he will not be a party to allow free and unlimited recruitment of labour either for Assam or for Malaya or other places. He must give us an assurance that those who have gone there are doing well. I have been taking interest in this subject for a long number of years; and I took an active part in the debate on labour recruitment for Assam along with my hon. Friends, when Sir Arthur Knapp was in charge. We did discuss the matter at length but we were not furnished with sufficient information to show that the people who had gone there were doing well and getting living wages. A very large number of the people were recruited during the last famine in the Ceded Districts and taken to Assam. Several hundreds returned quite disappointed with the wages given and with the climatic conditions. The Labour M. P. Mr. Jones and his friend have said that jute merchants are making on an average 90 per cent profits and some factories had made 300 per cent, with cheap Indian labour, and yet the conditions of the labourers are wretched and miserable. As an eminent writer put it, the Empire thrives on cheap native labour in India as well as many of the Colonies. I visited Ceylon, British Guiana, Trinidad Island and saw the Indian labourers working on plantations and read and studied the problems of labour in plantations in India. I am painfully aware of the fact that the export of Indian Labour has lowered the people of India in the estimation of the foreigner and even of the Negroes, and the Indians are known as the 'Coolie race'—I was called by the Negro people in British Guiana 'a coolie king' and my hon. and distinguished Friend Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar will be called a coolie king if he visits any of the Colonies. The Government should see that the unfortunate labourers who go out to work under foreigners are treated well and get living wages.

"There is one other point I would mention. We are very thankful to the hon. the Revenue Member Mr. Marjoribanks for postponing the collection of kists and takkavi loans in our district on the representations made to the hon. Member by some of us. It was a timely and sympathetic action.

6th March 1926]

[Mr. P. Kesava Pillai]

"I would say a word on another matter, and that is this. Hon. Members on this side of the House are—I may say I am glad of it—always on the alert on questions affecting the Transferred subjects and they pounce on the Ministers, but they rather fight shy when they come to the Reserved side of the Government (Voices: 'No, no'). I have been noticing it. I have been a taluk board president and a district board president, and I have been a member of local boards for over forty years. My Friend on my left (Mr. Narasimha Raju) is only a junior to me. I am the oldest member of this Council also. Hon. Members in charge have been invariably sympathetic and encouraging to local bodies. Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar under whom I served (Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju:—'Served?'). I worked under him. He was the hon. President of this Council also. But the hon. the Raja of Panagal, the Minister in charge, has had a more trying and arduous task in facing an opposition and in answering bitter questions. I have been struck with his grit, his courage and I may add, calmness and patience in withstanding shafts of criticisms led by an expert like Mr. Satyamurti. I may say at once that I do not belong to his party. I belong to the Madras Presidency Association which stood for Congress reforms with communal representation—opposing the 'Justice Party' as it stood then. Our party had the sympathy and support of the Brahman leaders like my friend the hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar now sitting in the Treasury Bench. However, I respect and admire the hon. Raja when he fights for equal opportunities to all and for Indian claims.

"One word more. I would thank my hon. Friend Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar for retaining the Munsif's Court at Gooty. He has provided one lakh for the District Judge's house at Anantapur, and I hope he will kindly remember the representations made by the people of Kalyandrug and other places for a Munsif's Court at Anantapur. Litigants from Kalayandrug taluk in special, find it hard and costly now to obtain Civil remedies. As for the punitive police, which an hon. Member behind me suggests that I should refer to, well, I hope to deal with it and other questions connected with the punitive police on a future occasion. In the meanwhile I fully trust that the hon. the Law Member will abolish it (Laughter)."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"After the lunch interval, hon. Members of the Government will reply. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 2-45 p.m."

After Lunch (2-45 p.m.).

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Mr. President, Sir, fifty-three hon. Members have spoken these three days and of them about thirty-six referred to the subjects relating to me and most of them have referred to education. There have been remarks good, bad and indifferent coming from various directions. It will be impossible for me to make individual references to all of them. There were a very large number of hon. Members who were so kind as to appreciate the work that has been done in Education and the other departments in my charge. They have analysed the work fully and found it to have been progressive. To them I express my grateful thanks. To those others who criticized I appreciate the spirit with which they have done. Specially I would refer to the criticism of the Member representing the City who confessedly ignorant of the figures of the

[Sir A. P. Patro]

[6th March 1926]

budget—and he did not take the pains to study and understand the budget having had no time—nevertheless was so good as to characterize the progress of education as nil. If only he had laboured a little and had discharged his responsibility to his constituency and to this House he would have seen that there are many things which indicate the progressive policy of the Department of Education.”

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—“Quality?”

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ Sometimes it is wise to be ignorant and sometimes it is very unwise to give expression to sentiments or ideas where one does not understand. Therefore unless the hon. Member representing the City is influenced by passion or prejudice he would certainly have found even on a cursory glance at the budget that there is a steady policy pursued in the matter of education. I would refer those who have used similar words only to a few items, new items of development that have found place in this budget. I say that with the co-operation of my hon. Colleagues Government have generously allowed always large concessions for education and if during the past years I have been able to show any progress it is because of the sympathy which His Excellency the Governor has always shown for the progress of education in this country and the great interest my hon. Colleagues take in this matter. I would first refer the House to the new items of grants to the Madras University for research work in Zoology and Bio-Chemistry. It has been remarked that the Madras University was constituted as an examining body and after its reorganization nothing has been done, no provision has been made, and no facilities have been provided for the purpose of developing the teaching and research work. Now that the scheme was prepared by the Academic Council, Government examined the scheme and after necessary modifications have made provision for two new research laboratories in the University. Then there is the institution of the economic degree course in the Presidency College. Hon. Members are aware that this course has been introduced in the University after the great labours of Dr. Gilbert Slater. It is he that gave impetus to the study of economics as a science in Southern India. He has built up this department of economics in such a manner that now those whom he trained are able to follow what he set up as an ideal. Nevertheless colleges by themselves have not been able to carry on the work which he inaugurated. Therefore we have started this new study as a science in the Presidency College. Again there is the opening of science classes in the Muhammadan College. The most important thing I wish to lay emphasis upon and which I have been submitting to this House year after year is the expansion of rural education and to secure its expansion not only in quantity but in quality as through the agencies which carry on the work usually, namely, the local bodies and the aided agencies. The hon. Member, Mr. M. C. Raja, said that is not an aided agency but an aiding agency. Hon. Members will agree that it is more accurate to describe them in that way. If the aided agency is not there Government would have been compelled to spend more money for taking up their work. Now the aided agencies working in the rural areas are helping and aiding the Government in the object and ideal which they have in view. With a view to reorganise and expand education, hon. Members will remember, a conference of those interested in education was called for in 1923. After discussion the policy was declared by me on

6th March 1926]

[Sir A. P. Patro]

the floor of this House that it is the duty of Government to expand rural education and to open a school in every village with a population of 500 and over. To that end I have again to express my gratitude to my hon. Colleague, Mr. Moir, who undertook specially to work out a scheme on the lines indicated at the conference. We have laboured hard at it and with the aid of the Revenue department we have been able to ascertain the school centres—where there has not been a school hitherto and where there have been too many schools so that we may from a glance know from the maps where the schools are wanted most and estimate the provision for them. We have nearly 2,200 villages with a population of 500 and above. In the provision made for this year 1926-27 the problem which we had in view and which I explained to the House is now solved, viz., that there will be a school in every village with a population of 500 and above. The agencies that carry this work are already at work. Then the aided agencies have been helped further by giving them teaching grants on a higher scale. The aided agencies have been struggling and mission bodies have represented to me that they have come to the end of their resources and that it would be impossible for them to assist the Government in the matter of elementary education or carrying out the policy which we have initiated. Hence in the matter of encouragement of the aided agencies we have almost doubled the grants in some cases and raised one and a half times in other cases. A liberal provision has also been made in the budget in the matter of building grants. Similarly we have also taken advantage of the numerous panchayats that have been formed under the Panchayat Act. They are also empowered under the Panchayat Act that one of their functions would be to carry out elementary education and we have placed a large sum at the disposal of the Inspector-General who has prepared and submitted to us a scheme of the expansion of the activities of the panchayats pointing out that they are prepared to undertake the responsibility. Another advantage in associating these panchayats is that they are prepared of their own accord to find accommodation and supervise these schools. Hence these panchayats themselves will be managers of these schools and the schools will be looked after by them. The Government supervision by the educational authorities will continue as usual. Hence the panchayats which are a non-Governmental agency on the one side and the local bodies on the other side will co-ordinate in the matter of expansion of elementary education and as I said this policy will be completed at the end of 1926-27. One word more in regard to elementary education. With regard to these panchayats the public have always insisted on their having a library attached to them. It is proposed that the rural areas should be looked after not by having a school alone but at the same time there must be a library in a suitable place to which the villagers might resort for enlightenment. We have made a provision for the purpose of these libraries to be started through these panchayats and the report will be submitted by the Inspector-General that the work is being done properly and thoroughly. Again not merely have we provided for the expansion of education, not merely have we provided for the numerous schools to be opened hereafter but we are also making the necessary arrangements for having an effective supervision of the various schools that have been started now. For that purpose we have a provision in the budget for expanding the subordinate inspecting agency. Hon. Members will remember that in 1923 I submitted to the House a scheme

[Sir A. P. Patro]

[6th March 1926]

regarding the deputy inspectors with a view to see that there may not be any multiplicity of work and to see that their work is confined to purely elementary education and that district educational officers may confine themselves to the high school and college work. Now we find that on account of the large number of schools and the expansion of elementary education both under the aided agencies and the local bodies we want effective supervision. For that purpose the subordinate agency of inspection has to be considerably multiplied and this year the Finance Committee has accepted only a portion of the scheme that we submitted for its consideration. Thus hon. Members will see that everything that is needed for the rural education of the population which is the backbone of rural reconstruction and which is necessary in order to kindle the national consciousness is being done as a result of the policy enunciated in 1923. Then can it be said that we have not achieved anything, that we have not directed the policy properly, that we have not directed the policy earnestly and sincerely and that we have not done so in a manner which is worthy of the party and worthy of Government? So, Sir, without looking into the figures and without endeavouring to understand the budget to say that no progress has been made cannot but be ridiculous. I am sure that after the information that I have submitted hon. Members that have criticised will reflect for a moment and find that their statements are not well founded.

3 p.m.

"Then, again, with reference to secondary education I have just one thing to draw attention to. I will not refer to what has been done hitherto but on what we are now doing. We want to emphasise on secondary education being really more useful and practicable. It is not that secondary education should be a preparatory course for the University alone. It is to be recognised as a unit in itself, and to that end we have been working actively at these secondary schools and enlisting the sympathy of parents and managers of institutions. Any change that we may make in secondary education must be necessarily very cautious. Because we have got a large number of aided institutions in charge of secondary education. We have to take them into our confidence and we have to convince them of the necessity of introducing practical courses of instruction. When in 1922 I first submitted to this House for consideration the idea of vocational education, or practical instruction, manual training, hon. Members felt doubts as to the progress that would be made in that direction and as to the utility of the scheme. But I am glad to say that when the question was mooted last year all hon. members were satisfied with the progress made and they pointed out to me practical examples of institutions where manual training in a higher form has been helpful to the students. There is no doubt a tendency on the part of institutions to adopt more and more practical courses, so that with the general education a bias has been created in the minds of students for vocational training, and they are beginning to understand that their education is not merely for the purpose of preparing themselves for the literary examination of the University to get their Secondary School-Leaving Certificate and go into the Intermediate class. But it will take some time to find an all-round belief and a taste for practical work, so that the students may not feel ashamed to do manual work and work as apprentices in workshops. That will be only a preliminary or a preparatory stage where their minds will be prepared for higher technical courses. That is what I emphasised, Sir, in 1922, and I am glad to say that

6th March 1926]

[Sir A. P. Patro]

in this budget we find an increased provision made, because there has been an increased demand in the country for that kind of education. If, as I submitted to this House, the beginning we have made in this direction is to work fully and completely, the co-operation of aided institutions is absolutely necessary. Parents believe that they send their boys to the high school to secure a pass in the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate, so that he may go to some office and earn Rs. 20 or Rs. 30. That is the kind of mentality that has been created in the minds of the parents. Therefore, it takes a long time for us to take the parents and the managers of institutions into our confidence and make them revise their ideas in regard to education, that it is not merely for the purpose of entering service but for the purpose of making a young man understand that he should be self-reliant, that there should be a strong element of self-respect created in him, and that he may be able to make proper use of his energy and intelligence. It is that aspect of education that we have been endeavouring to spread, and it is with that object that we have been trying to introduce practical courses in our schools and the attention of our inspecting agencies and our school masters is directed to that aspect. I am glad to say that there is greater and increasing response from the country. It cannot be achieved in a day, and these improvements should go on for a large number of years in order that the people may be convinced of its utility, and I may say in course of time it will be realized that it is not a principle that can be easily neglected or ignored. And whatever may be the party, whatever may be the creed of the party in power, all must agree that education in the secondary schools must be made more useful and practicable. It is this that we have been emphasising, and you will find a provision made in the budget for that purpose.

"A new item again in the budget which you will find is medical inspection, with a view to introducing compulsion. It has been said repeatedly that the health of the students on account of mental work and unhealthy school rooms was deteriorating. It is therefore necessary that an element of compulsion should be introduced on the part of management in order that the health of the students may be cared for. Now, we introduced this first in 1922, but we left it to the option of the managers that they may employ a certain class of medical officers to conduct medical inspection in schools and that they should send the medical report to the Director of Public Instruction through the Surgeon-General. The Surgeon-General will have to send his remarks to the managers through the District Educational Officers. This was the voluntary system we were continuing for the last three years, and we find that it is not so effective, and hence we have endeavoured to introduce a compulsory system of medical inspection. This is a very great step in the matter of insuring the health of the student population in high schools."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHEITTYAR :—"Is it by making managers pay?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"A reference is necessary to the grant for libraries in charge of local bodies. I have already briefly referred to the grant given for the purpose of starting libraries through the village panchayats. But this is another grant for libraries which is given for general public libraries. Where there is great demand for libraries and where the District Collector and the District Educational Officer and the local people are satisfied that a particular library which has been started some

[Sir A. P. Patro]

[6th March 1926]

time ago has not been receiving adequate aid for its expansion, on their recommendation grants-in-aid are given by the Director of Public Instruction. This, I submit, is a new item. Leaving aside the Andhra University scheme, the new items are grants to Madras University for a research laboratory, institution of an economic degree course, provision for medical inspection, grants to libraries, and the appointment of a special officer for the purpose of encouraging Mappilla education. I need hardly refer in detail to the need for compulsory education among the Mappillas. Because we find that unless we properly bring them up to the level of the other people in Malabar in point of education it would not be possible for us to make them listen to anything that is reasonable. They should be taken out of the narrow groove in which they are moving. So, Mappilla representatives have pressed on the attention of the Government that both in the Ernad and Walavanad taluks there should be a system of compulsory education. It was also one of the steps recommended by the Sub-Committee that was appointed to enquire into Mappilla affairs after the last rebellion. After full investigation, it has come to fruition, and we are going to have a special officer to organize educational advance among the Mappillas. We have been following a progressive policy all along.

"Now, Sir, it was stated that in the education budget a surrender of Rs. 2.12 lakhs was made. It is said the Educational Department has not been mindful of the requirements of the people and therefore the Ministry ought to be condemned. Again, passion and prejudice. A dispassionate view will at once show that where the budget consists of Rs. 150 lakhs and where Rs. 150 lakhs have to be expended by the department, there will be contingencies, and there will necessarily be short expenditure in some direction over which you have no control. A reasonable survey of it will convince at once that there must necessarily be some part which could not be controlled, and which may end in short expenditure. I will ask this Honourable House in this connexion to refer for a moment to the figures in the Appropriation Report for 1924-25, page 108, and they will find at once how unfounded is the charge that has been deliberately made against us in the management and administration of the department. On the other hand, if a reasonable view is taken, not a jaundiced view, but a dispassionate view, you will find that the items of savings are necessarily inevitable. It is in the case of contingencies as you find from page 108 of the Appropriation Report. In the case of contingencies, it was estimated by the department to be Rs. 1.20 lakhs, and that in the course of the readjustments in the departments, the whole amount of contingencies that was budgeted for could not be expended. Then, again, there was an other item of saving of about Rs. 70,000 in connexion with grants to non-Government special schools, where we had a saving in the pay of officers and contingencies. Now, the whole point is this. We had to keep the posts of two or three officers of Government special schools vacant for want of specialists necessary for those particular posts. These could not be filled, and when we filled them by promotion from subordinate ranks, there was a saving in the pay of the officers of the All-India Service. Is it, Sir, a crime that we have been able to save some money on a particular head? Is it not reasonable to expect that we have done our duty? On this point, Sir, the hon. Member representing the City and the hon. Member for Vizagapatam have pointed out that this was a great defect in the administration, a great blot on the

6th March 1926]

[Sir A. P. Patro]

Ministry and that Rs. 2.12 lakhs have been surrendered. It is evident from the Appropriation Report for 1924-25 which is in the hands of hon. Members that this saving was in grants to special schools—pay of officers and contingencies, and under 'Inspection' you find a saving again in the matter of exchange compensation. Thus, you will find that the savings of Rs. 2.12 lakhs are not under any serviceable heads and are inevitable. Hon. Members will therefore see that any criticism which may come from whatever side of the House must be based on reason and not on passion or prejudice. If it can be shown that this surrender of Rs. 2.12 lakhs is one from an allotment intended for necessary developmental purposes and if such a developmental purpose could not be carried on on account of the remissness of duty on the part of the department, then it is time for any reasonable person to ask 'How is it that the amount has not been utilized?' Otherwise, it is not the legitimate right of anybody to ask how this amount has not been utilized.

"Hon. Members have heard the criticism in regard to university education, the Madras University Act and the Andhra University Act. Reference was made to them specially by the hon. Member representing the Central Zamindari Landholders, Dr. Subbarayan. I do not see him here. I wish very much that he was here on this occasion to listen to me. It is not the first time that such a criticism has been made. It is parrot-like repetition. On the other hand, there are experts who are more conversant with the university organization, persons who have worked the University Act and others who studied the Act carefully and expressed very good opinions. No piece of legislation can be perfect, but the wisdom lies in working it in an honest spirit, not in the spirit of obstruction or suspicion. There are university experts who have worked the university organization and they have thoroughly supported the scheme when it was discussed here and outside. Therefore, I will give preference to experts rather than to Dr. Subbarayan who talked without any understanding because he has not studied the Act thoroughly. He was not able to point out in what particular section he found the Act unworkable. If any specific reference has been made, I would have some respect for such criticism. But with no knowledge of the details of the Act, with no knowledge of its working, it is easy for any man in the street (hear, hear) to cry out 'Wolf.' It is not well for responsible Members of the House to make statements which they cannot support by reference to specific instances. I therefore deprecate from any side of the House any criticism which cannot be supported by tangible facts and figures. On the other hand one or two other sister Universities modelled their schemes on this. Being an example of imitation is the best form of appreciation."

3-15
P.M.

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"May I know if the official Members have no time-limit, Sir?"

*The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"That is not a point of order, Sir. If my remarks are very painful and expose the ignorance of the Member for City, I must apologize; but I cannot help it when hon. Members cannot point out specific instances where the Act could not be worked. Then the hon. Member said with reference to the Andhra University, 'O, Bezvada is the centre, what is the good.' I am afraid the hon. Member is not aware of the feeling in regard to this matter. An administrator will

[Sir A. P. Patro]

[6th March 1926]

have to see to the expediency. What is necessary for a particular purpose may not be expedient. But has he studied it and worked it in order to pronounce a judgment? It is impatient, hasty criticism which I do not think the House will be prepared to accept. These are the only points on which any criticism was made with regard to the Education Department. On the other hand there have been some very useful suggestions made by my Friend Mr. M. C. Raja and Mr. Guruswami and others that in regard to the depressed classes education facilities should be given to them and so on. All these questions will be very fully considered, and especially in regard to the application of Rule 72. I know there has been some agitation, but I cannot at this moment think it possible to give effect to them without consulting the Chancellor of the Exchequer (the Finance Member,) as it is the Finance Department that has to sanction the funds. If only the hon. Member know the number of proposals made to the Finance Department and the number of schemes accepted by them, he will realize that distribution should be among all the departments of Government. No particular department can claim special preference. Therefore all these must go into the hotch-potch of the Finance Committee. If there is difference of opinion they must be placed before them for the purpose of further treatment. Hon. Members will see that it is not easy for any Member or Minister to be able to give assurance definitely in the case of the budget without necessary discussion or consultation with the Finance Department and with his hon. Colleagues. Therefore the suggestions that have been made will be examined further in course of time to see how far they can best be met.

"Coming to Excise, my hon. Friend from Coimbatore said that the Finance Member and the Minister in charge are equally to blame in not having reduced the consumption so that prohibition may be introduced at this stage. If the committee that is to be appointed is able to point out ways and means by which the loss of revenue could be recouped, it shall be my duty to carry out that policy as early as possible. We are taking steps to appoint a committee to suggest means by which the loss of revenue could be recouped. After that is done further steps will be taken. We are considering the reorganization of advisory committees and licensing boards. That will take time. I cannot therefore understand the impatience with which the hon. Member for Coimbatore has again adverted to the subject. During the debate Punjab was repeatedly referred to. I was charged and told why the Minister should not follow the Punjab in the matter of Excise. Hon. Members must have read that the Punjab Legislative Council by a large majority turned down the resolution recommending adoption of prohibition. So the only province that has been referred to as showing a tendency to prohibition has altogether dropped the question for the time being. So there is no force in saying that prohibition must come in 10 years or 15 years without first taking stock of our financial condition and how best we can recoup the loss. Once we see the way, prohibition will automatically follow because all measures must be adopted in order to replace the revenue lost.

"I again thank those Members who have appreciated the work done by the departments and on behalf of the heads of departments also I express my gratitude to them."

6th March 1926.]

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ Mr. President, Sir, several hon. Members have raised the question of the large savings as shown in the appropriation reports of the Accountant-General in the departments under my control. The reasons for these savings are given in the appropriation reports themselves and it will, I am afraid, take up too much time of the House if I were to give the reasons for the savings during the years mentioned by the hon. Members. I would therefore content myself with stating the reasons for the savings during the latest year for which the accounts have been finally ascertained, viz., the year 1924-25, in which the amount saved was nearly Rs. 9 lakhs. Nearly Rs. 7 lakhs was the amount saved in the Industries Department and this amount is made up of the following items :—

‘ (1) Commercialization of the Kerala Soap Institute and the Fish Cannery at Chaliyam—a saving only in name, for these amounts have been transferred to the separate accounts of these commercial institutions.

‘ (2) Non-utilization of the provision made for the purchase of power drills. I may mention here that these were purchased during the current year and the department has not therefore suffered by the non-utilization in the previous year.’

“ Other items are the provision made for payment to the Government of India for stocks of salt in the fish-curing yards, savings under pay and allowances of officers and establishments mainly due to non-employment and savings in the provision made for the British Empire Exhibition.

“ The savings in the Agricultural Department amounted to Rs. 1½ lakhs and the reason was that the full allotment under pay of officers, establishment and allowances could not be utilized and that a fixed grant under ‘ Contingencies ’ provided for the grant of land compensation could not be disbursed during the year. Hon. Members will perceive from this statement that the savings could not be avoided and that under the Financial rules in force it was not possible to utilize them for new schemes. The savings in the current year to which the hon. Member Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar referred amount to nearly Rs. 1½ lakhs. The amount allotted for building the Leather Trades Institute was not fully spent as well as the provision for the purchase of pumping sets which are proposed to be purchased next year. Other reasons are the commercialization of the workshop attached to the Industrial Institute at Madura and the fact that the Fruit-Preserving Institute was not being worked to its full capacity during the year.

“ The hon. Member from Bellary, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, gave the House some statistics about the number of agricultural and industrial workers and drew the conclusion therefrom that the departments of Agriculture and Industries did not render any benefit to the people. It is not easy within the short space of time at my disposal to meet a general charge of this kind which is on the face of it unsustainable. The activities of these departments and the good they have done to the people at large are patent from their annual reports published for general information.”

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ May I ask the hon. Minister to say whether he has done anything to enquire into the causes and find remedy therefor ?”

[6th March 1926]

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ I may remind the House that the Department of Industries which was originally created in October 1908 was abolished after two years and that it was resuscitated only in March 1914, in other words, just before the eve of the Great War. Everybody knows the effect which the Great War had on industries in general and the disastrous effect which it had on even old and well established industries in the West. In these circumstances, it was not reasonable to expect that much progress would be made during the time when the whole world was involved in war or in meeting the new conditions which came into existence as an aftermath of the war. As a matter of fact, until five or six years ago the net cost of the department was under two lakhs and it was only during the past five or six years that the Industries Department had a fair opportunity to carry out the objects for which it was constituted. To bring into existence a large number of new industries within this short time would have been nothing short of a miracle and though during this short period the department has not been able to achieve any miracle it has done a good deal. The department had its disappointments and failures but it has also had some successes and there is every reason to hope that more success will attend its efforts.

“ As regards the Agricultural Department an estimate made in 1922 showed that not less than a sum of Rs. 2½ crores had been earned in addition by the ryots in the Presidency during one single year as a result of the activities of the Agricultural Department. I submit therefore to the House that there is no justification for the sweeping remark that the Agricultural and Industries departments have not done any good to the people in the Province.

“ Sir Alexander MacDougall while generally blessing the work of the Industries Department made one suggestion, namely, that one or two institutes which are now being maintained might well be abolished and he mentioned the Fruit Preserving Institute at Coonoor in particular. In reply to this suggestion I would like to say that the Government are always watching the working of these institutes very carefully at frequent intervals and they have come to the conclusion that the Fruit-Preserving Institute at Coonoor should be finally closed.

“ Another hon. Member representing the commercial interests of the Presidency, Mr. Wood, has desired that I should make a statement of policy in the matter of Government enterprises and in making this request he added that there was some indication recently of a departure from the original policy of the Government of granting financial assistance to commercial concerns only when existing institutions would not be adversely affected. He also wanted an assurance from me that it is not the policy of Government to support inefficiency in order to destroy efficiency. I am of course quite ready to give this assurance if any such assurance is really needed. The policy of the Government in the matter of Government enterprises has been laid down so recently as 19th October 1925 in the Review of the Administration Report of the Industries Department which was placed on the Editors' Table. The Government have declared that their object in starting pioneer factories is not to inaugurate a system of State trading but to test the possibility of manufacturing on commercial lines certain articles in

6th March 1926]

[Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai]

common use which have hitherto been imported from abroad or from other parts of India. The Government have also added that their policy is to retire from manufacture in favour of private enterprises, if commercial success is not attained, or to discontinue the experiment if the prospect of success appeared to be too doubtful or remote to justify further expenditure. In view of the facilities now offered by the State Aid to Industries Act, the Government consider that the experimental work of the Industries Department should not, as a rule, proceed beyond the stage of laboratory test and that pioneer manufacture on a commercial scale may, in future, be left mainly, if not entirely, to private enterprise. I am confident that my hon. Friend, Mr. Wood, will take no objection to this statement of policy made in October last. As regards the policy of Government in the matter of granting financial aid to commercial concerns there has been no departure from the original policy of Government as suggested by my hon. Friend, Mr. Wood.

"Before passing to another subject, I would like to make a short reference to the complaint of the hon. Member from South Kanara, Mr. Saldanha, that several industries established at Mangalore and Madras were being throttled out of existence on account of financial stringency. The hon. Member referred to the tile factories in Mangalore and the South Indian Industrials in Madras and he found fault with the Government for not taking action under the State Aid to Industries Act with a view to help these concerns. The hon. Member must be aware that the Act prescribes in section 5 thereof the directions in which aid may be given under the Act, viz., that it should be given either to new or nascent industries or industries to be newly developed in areas where such industries are undeveloped or to cottage industries, and the Government have no power to give any aid under the Act to any concerns which do not fall within the purview of the Act. The Government have received no applications for aid under the Act from these concerns.

"The only reference made to the working of the Veterinary Department was by the hon. Member for Nellore, Mr. Ramachandra Reddi; he referred to the necessity of increasing the number of veterinary dispensaries, and to a promise about opening of new dispensaries which has not been performed. I may at once say that the promise has been kept and that the Government have sanctioned the opening of six dispensaries including the one at Kavali in the Nellore district during the current year and that provision has been made for the next year for six new dispensaries including one at Venkatagiri.

"Coming next to the Agricultural Department, my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Menon, referred to the small provision made for statistical work and under Exhibitions and Fairs. I would like to remind my hon. Friend that the amount shown in the Agricultural budget does not represent the entire expenditure which the Government incur on the compilation of statistics in the Presidency. It only represents the amount which the Government are spending on the statistical section in the office of the Director of Agriculture. The Board of Revenue also does a portion of this work while almost all the Revenue officers send statistical reports to the Board and the Director as part of their regular duties. As regards the provision under Exhibitions and Fairs, the provision made is sufficient to meet the demand and the Government will be prepared to consider the question of making further grants for

[Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai]

[6th March 1926]

this purpose, if they are convinced that improvement of breed is likely to be achieved or helped by holding the shows. The Government also award prizes to the best cared-for calves born to Government stud bulls. Mr. Gopala Menon also referred to the reduction of $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs in the provision for the Agricultural Research Institute. This difference is really due to the fact that the current year's allotment under this head includes a provision of over Rs. 1,65,800 for acquisition of lands for two paddy breeding stations, namely, at Martera in West Godavari and Pattambi in Malabar. Deducting this non-recurring outlay the amount provided for next year shows really an increase under this head.

"Several hon. Members have urged the need for more agricultural banks helped by State funds. I may at once say that the Government appreciate the need for land mortgage banks and they have decided to help the starting of four land mortgage banks in the Presidency during the current year by guaranteeing half the capital required for each bank subject to a maximum of Rs. 50,000 for each bank provided the other half is found by the public. These four banks have been organized and registered already and the Government propose to help four new banks next year in the same manner if the need should arise."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—"May I know in what district?"

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"May I know, of the four banks, which are said to have been started, how many have actually begun work?"

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T.N. SIVAGNAM PILLAI :—"These banks, if they are to be successful, must ultimately be able to do without Government assistance and the assistance which the Government are prepared to give ought to be sufficient to promote the object in view, viz., to assist the formation of these banks. The extension of these banks and their usefulness must ultimately depend on the amount of support which they are able to secure from the general public."

"Mr. Arpudawami Udayar has appealed for more funds for demonstration of agricultural methods recommended by the Agricultural Department and for extension of agricultural education. Demonstration is in the forefront of the programme of the Agricultural Department. Consistent with its other commitments all the available staff is concentrated on this work. For want of qualified and eligible candidates the sanctioned posts of demonstrators have had to be kept vacant. Clerks and others are not properly equipped for the work and it is not desirable to entrust this important work to them. The department, however, employs 'maistris' on demonstration work under the control and guidance of the demonstrators. As to the extension of agricultural education, there is an impression that the middle schools have not been a success. As to the extension of agricultural education the Government recently decided in consultation with the Advisory Committee to await the recommendation of the Secondary Education Committee."

"As regards the provision for the land and buildings at the Hosur Farm adverted to by Mr. Vellingiri Gounder the provision is required to pay the Government of India the value of the lands and buildings which we have taken over but which have not yet been paid for, pending the finding of the Arbitration Committee which will shortly meet to value the land and buildings. The other expenditure required is the working expenses of the farm

6th March 1926]

[Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai]

with its large herd. A fodder reserve is maintained at the farm. And a recent report from the Director goes to show that the cattle at the Hosur farm is in excellent condition, especially the Kangayam cattle, and that there is every prospect of its becoming an ideal farm. Provision has also been made in the next year's estimates for inaugurating a dairy scheme which, to begin with, will undertake the supply of milk to Madras hospitals in collaboration with the Imperial Dairy at Bangalore.

"As regards the working of the Agricultural Engineering section, it may be stated that we have not yet had a type of officer who will undertake real research into the various sorts of agricultural machinery and design them to suit South Indian conditions. Long ago the Government approved a scheme for the recruitment of an officer but for financial reasons they have not been able to give effect to it. It is hoped to take this matter in hand in 1927.

"As regards agricultural education, Mr. Vellingiri Gounder knows that it has been engaging the attention of the Government for some time past and the question was discussed with the Advisory Committee. As regards the suggestion that agricultural education should be imparted in village schools to which lands should be attached, the matter pertains really to the Education department. The Secondary Education Committee which is now sitting will deal with this question and it will in due course come before Government for consideration.

"Coming to the field of co-operation, I observe that Mr. Adinarayana Chettiyar has traversed the whole work of the co-operative department and called in question its utility and the efficiency of its officers for the work they have to do. He wants to make out that the movement has not benefited the ryots. I, however, find that in the one year 1924-25 the primary societies have advanced loans amounting to nearly 92 lakhs to pay off prior debts and that the total loans advanced by these societies to members is as high as 2.89 crores. The total amount lent by primary societies since the movement started is Rs. 17,12,00,000 and Rs. 5,68,00,000 have been advanced for the liquidation of prior debts. The average loan per member works out to 42 in 1924-25, 41 in 1923-24 and 42 and 41 in the previous two years. I do not claim for the co-operative department that it has completely solved the problem of indebtedness of the ryots, but, considering the financial arrangements in force, there is no denying the fact that the movement has gone a great way to wean the agriculturists from the grasping money-lenders and to reduce the general level of rates of interest. Only quite recently the department has made an attempt to open land mortgage banks specially to relieve rural indebtedness of small holders and with the opening of more land mortgage banks, it is hoped that substantial progress will be made in extinguishing the large agricultural indebtedness.

"On the need for a strong controlling staff in the department, I can only refer the hon. Member to the legal position of the Registrar and the Government under the Act. The Registrar is the foundation of the movement and if he is to discharge the duties entrusted to him efficiently and if the Local Government's position in relation to the movement is to be maintained it will become very difficult, if not impossible, unless the powers under the Act were wielded by officers over whom we can have complete control and who can be made to feel their responsibility to the Government. Criticism has been strongly levelled against the new appointment of Joint Registrar. The

[Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai]

[6th March 1926]

working of the department, especially since the development scheme was sanctioned in 1920, has convinced the Government that the Registrar single-handed cannot perform satisfactorily all the duties of his office. The post of Joint Registrar has been proposed after a very careful consideration of its need. The Registrar has delegated, as far as possible, duties to the subordinate officers and it is no longer possible for him even to carry on, much less to discharge, his responsibilities to the Government, to the movement and to the general public without substantial relief."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I ask the hon Minister. . . ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is it a point of order or a personal explanation ? "

3-45
p.m.

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" As to the criticism that this appointment was not included in the scheme of recent reorganization it may be stated that the reorganization dealt with only the question of the requirements of the district and the disposition of the district staff while the present appointment concerns the question of relief at headquarters. The Government are fully alive to the disadvantages of over-officialization. Though in matters such as bank management and supervision much work has been done in several places by non-officials, the fact remains that there is a tendency for primary societies to fall short of the co-operative ideal and it is possible in present conditions to attain this ideal only under careful and diligent guidance of men who can be expected to devote their whole time and energy to the cause. Non-officials, however willing and enthusiastic they may be, cannot be expected to bring that constant and close control to bear on the movement as well as the paid officers of Government. It is therefore necessary to have a strong controlling staff. By this it is not intended to say that the movement should be kept in the leading strings of Governmental machinery. So far as the administrative duties connected with the movement are concerned, a beginning has been made to divide the district staff into administrative and audit sections and to-day out of a number of nearly 230 inspectors only about 50 are entrusted with administrative duties and this is necessary because union development, rapid as it has been, has not become efficient in all cases; nor have all the societies come into the union scheme. It is only to provide for the supervision of such societies that the administrative staff is intended. The ultimate ideal is to keep permanent only such staff as will be found necessary to conduct the audit of primary societies; the existing number of administrative inspectors will very soon be absorbed in audit work.

" Reference has been made to the increase of overdues. No one is more anxious and concerned about this than the Registrar and the Government and as will be seen from the recent administration reports this question has been constantly engaging their attention. Large arrears are due either to laxity in collection work or to the inability of the members to pay in stated instalments. Much useful work can be done if the panchayats of the village societies are constantly on the watch to recover the loans as they fall due. The Government have also impressed on the departmental officers the importance of their duty in the matter.

6th March 1926]

[Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai]

"Reference has been made that the department's usefulness has been affected by communal wrangles. It may be stated, without fear of contradiction, that the main aim of the department has been the promotion of co-operation and unity among the various classes of disinterested gentlemen working in the movement and the suggestion that attempts are insiduously made by the department to foment communal differences is unfounded and cannot be too strongly deprecated."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I give him specific instances now, Sir ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Not now, I am sorry. "

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Mr. President, Sir, a flight of poetic imagination has enabled my hon. Friend opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, to see in the hon. Finance Member, a centre of a solar system. I have no such flights to help me. I must be content with being prosaic ; yet I have eyes to see. My hon. Friend, Mr. Moir, occupies the centre of the Treasury bench. Whether we are his satellites or not (Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju : ' I called them planets '), whether he attracts us or repels, I cannot let this opportunity go without offering my hearty congratulations to him on his splendid performance of preparing his first budget for presentation to this hon. House. I honestly think that the budget before us is the result of labour, sagacity and straightforwardness. Some hon. Members, however, have characterized it as anything but satisfactory. They assert that it is a deficit budget and to budget for deficit is against all the canons of sound finance. For my part, I think that their assertion is an assertion of a half truth. It must be remembered that Mr. Moir has had to prepare his budget under extraordinary circumstances. On the one side, there have been demands for funds in various departments for keeping up progress in the administration. On the other side, there is considerable financial relief still due from the Government of India in the shape of remission in the Madras provincial contribution. The Finance Member has had to calculate the degrees of urgency in the demands and the chances of relief from the Government of India. He has had to chalk out his line under a complicated set of circumstances and I daresay he has done it wisely. Is it not wisdom on the part of a Finance Member to avoid blocking the progress particularly in the nation-building departments even at the risk of budgeting for a deficit, a deficit which could be made good when the expected financial relief from the Government of India comes ? I am glad to say that it is as good as having come. "

" I shall now try to answer the more important of the criticisms offered by the hon. Members in the course of the debate. But before I do so, I would classify these criticisms into those which were offered with a sense of full responsibility and those which are not so offered. I shall first deal with the criticisms under the first head. "

" It was pointed out that by assenting to this budget arrangement, the Ministers have allowed the Transferred subjects to suffer. I too thought so at one time. Those who held this opinion argue that any financial relief we get from the Government of India will have to be chargeable for the wiping out of the deficit and that the chances of the nation-building departments getting the benefit of the relief will be nil. This argument loses its force

[The Raja of Panagal]

[6th March 1926]

when we take into consideration the fact that the deficit is mainly due to the provision being made in the budget for what are known as the II and III class schemes and that the provision for the II and III class schemes in the Transferred departments amounts to nearly 55 lakhs of rupees. Thus it will be seen that the Transferred subjects get the main portion of the financial relief which the provincial finance gets by way of reduction in the Madras contribution to the Central Government. The hon. Leader of the Opposition thinks that the Ministers are not assertive enough to get their share for the benefit of the Transferred subjects."

* Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU :—"I said that it depended on the relative knack of the departments to get money."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"In view of what I have said above, I am sure he will revise his opinion. Of course the Ministers will be glad to get a larger share of the provincial finance, but they cannot afford to be unreasonable."

"The hon. Member for Godavari, Sir K. V. Reddi Nayudu, suggested that the Members of the Government should have programmes of progressive policies in their several departments. We do have such programmes and we try to give effect to such policies in due course. It is more difficult to give effect to these policies than to draw up their programmes. The carrying out of the policy is a matter of expenditure of funds. We are, however, taking steps to carry out our policies of progress. On the Ministerial side, the most important programme of work we have before us is the improvement of the conditions of life in rural areas. The hon. Member might be aware of the measures that are being introduced in carrying out this programme."

"The hon. Member from Nellore seems to have been annoyed at the compliment which the Secretary of State had been pleased to pay to the Madras Ministry by his observations :

'In Madras, the transitional constitution has worked with a great measure of success. Ministers have used their influence to steady public opinion and feeling and have displayed a general moderation and no small measure of statesmanship.'

"He challenged the Secretary of State's compliment, and said that no credit is due to the Ministers because they have not been able to effect any improvement in the conditions of rural life. I wonder how an hon. Member like Mr. Krishna Rao Pantulu could have closed his eyes to what is going on in the rural areas; how he could have been oblivious to the activities of the district and taluk and health staffs and of the medical men in charge of rural dispensaries, to the schemes of rural roads and rural water-supply that are being executed, to the spread of elementary education and co-operative movement in rural areas. Cannot the Ministry take credit to having introduced these measures to ameliorate the condition of the rural population ?

"Another hon. Member, I think the Member for South Arcot, took the Government to task for not being able to spend the amount of funds allotted. So far as the Local Self-Government Department is concerned, facts and figures before me show that that department has not only spent the amounts allotted but a great deal more. If the hon. Member wants the details of information, I have no objection to supply them to him. The same Member has referred to the laxity in the matter of collections, by the district municipalities. I admit there has been laxity in the matter of collections in the case of certain municipal councils. The councils have been

6th March 1926]

[The Raja of Panagal]

called upon to apply themselves to the work more vigorously and as the hon. Members are aware, it is also under contemplation to amend the District Municipalities Act to provide for the appointment of executive officers.

"The hon. Member representing the Indian Chamber of Commerce complained that the provision in the budget under discussion, under 'Public Health', is less by 19 lakhs. I do not know how he has arrived at this figure. I am afraid, he is wrong in his calculations. It is true that under the head of 'Public Health', there is a decrease of 5.8 lakhs in the allotment, but that decrease is due to the fact that the Government have not yet provided for village water-supply schemes in the budget for the ensuing year. We did not provide for this because, we did not know exactly how much of the provision made in the current year's budget has been utilized. I am glad to assure the hon. House that it is proposed to move a supplemental demand for the village water-supply schemes and village roads after the budget demands are voted.

"The hon. Member for Bellary, Mr. Siva Rao, expressed his dissatisfaction at the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee not having been accepted by the Government. I need hardly remind this House that most of the recommendations have already been accepted and effect has been given to them. If some of the recommendations have not been accepted, it is due to paucity of funds. As the result of the acceptance of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee, local bodies have obtained considerable financial relief. Some Members complained that there is no provision made for village roads and village water-supply schemes. If there is no such provision, it is because we have no definite information as to what portion of 12½ lakhs allotted in the current year's budget has been utilized for these works. I am glad, however, to assure the House that I am going to move a supplemental grant to make provision for village roads and village water-supply schemes.

"Other hon. Members have raised other points, but as they mostly relate to the local needs, I am content with giving the general reply that when the suggestions involved in the points take the shape of formal proposals, the Government will be pleased to give their best consideration to them.

"Now, Sir, I come to the second category of criticisms, criticisms, which I must say are not levelled with any sense of responsibility. They relate to the nominations of members to the local bodies. My first idea was that I had better not reply to them inasmuch as they were meant merely as a party attack. Since, however, I have read in one of the interested dailies of Madras, an editorial based on the misleading statements made by some of the hon. Members, I changed my idea and proposed to reply some of the remarks which were made by the hon. Members. In this connexion, let me state that of the nominations of members to the local bodies, a large majority of them are made by the presidents of the district boards and the presidents of taluk boards. They are doing their duty to the best of their light. The Government, however, cannot be held responsible for any of these nominations. The nominations to the district municipalities and the district boards are by a convention made on the recommendation of the district collectors and the district board presidents respectively. The collectors and the district board presidents send up the recommendations and the Government generally accept

4 p. m.

[The Raja of Panagal]

[6th March 1926]

them. In the case of the City Corporation, the nominations are made by the Government even after the introduction of the Act of 1919. Sir P. Rajagopala Achariyar used to make the nominations sometimes in consultation with the Commissioner and sometimes without any consultation with him. He never used to consult the President."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"During the time of Sir Rajagopala Achariyar there were no commissioners."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"There was a Commissioner. Mr. Burkitt was the first Commissioner and later on Sir Habib-ul-lah."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. Burkitt was no doubt Commissioner. Sir Rajagopala Achariyar was then the hon. the President of this House."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"He became President of the Council only in December. After I took charge of the portfolio, I thought I had better consult the President or the Commissioner of the Corporation whenever I found that such consultation was necessary. But there is no provision or rule in the Act of 1919 for the consultation with the Commissioner or the President, nor is there a convention to that effect. Yet, after I took charge I used to consult sometimes the President and sometimes the Commissioner. Even to-day there are the recommendations of the President before the Government. I will certainly consider them but that does not mean that I am bound to accept them. It is stated that I have been making it a point to nominate party men. If that were so, how could so many of them whom I see on the Opposition have been nominated by me? If the suggestion is that I should not nominate party men, whatever might be their desert for nomination, I must say, I decline to accept the suggestion."

"Sir, I myself realize that the system of nominations is likely to be misunderstood and misrepresented by those whom the nominations do not please. It is impossible to please all by nominating some. This system is a legacy left to me. I wanted to do away with the nominations altogether but the representatives of the various interests, for whose benefit the nominations are intended, objected to the system of nominations being substituted by any other system, to ensure their representation. I have been seriously thinking to do away with the system of nominations in the proposed overhauling of the machinery of Local Self-Government; the question has been referred to a committee and they are expected to put up proposals soon. There has been a great deal of bitterness exhibited by the hon. Member for the city of Madras and the hon. Member for Bellary; the mind of the former seems to be embittered at the disappointment caused by the presence of Rao Bahadur Thanikachallam Chettiyar in the Corporation and that of the latter by the absence of his nominees on the taluk boards in the Bellary district. I cannot, however, help it. Even if these hon. Members are infuriated and used unwarranted language in their remarks, let me not work myself up to that state of infuriated mind in replying to those remarks."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"On a matter of personal explanation, Sir. I promised to produce the letter which I had in my possession with regard to the practice or the alleged practice that is observed in the matter of nomination to the Corporation. It is a letter written by the hon. the Raja of Panagal. The nomination of members

6th March 1926]

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The statement is quite enough. The hon. Member need not read the contents of the letter."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"I used to consult the President sometimes and the Commissioner sometimes."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—"I just want to contradict that statement."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The Raja of Panagal also has admitted that he has consulted the President of the Corporation. That fact is not disputed by either of the hon. Members."

* The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—"Thanks to our esteemed Vice-President, he has been pleased to attribute many excellent qualities to me which I am aware I do not possess. One of those qualities is patience. Let me try to deserve that quality. Says Valmiki,—

శ్రుద్ధః పాపం నకుర్యాత్క్రూరః శ్రుద్ధో హన్యాత్ సుమానసి ।
 శ్రుద్ధః పరుషయావాచా సరస్వానా నభిషేత్ ॥
 వాచ్యాఽవాన్యం ప్రకుపితో నవిజానాతికర్త్తుచిత్ ।
 నాఽవాన్య మపిశ్రుద్ధస్య నాఽకార్యంవిద్యతేకర్త్తుచిత్ ॥

"Which man infuriated does not commit sin? A man in fury attacks even men entitled to consideration. With a bitterness of expression he condemns innocent men. He never knows what to say and what not to say. There is nothing, however objectionable, that he would not indulge in, either in word or in deed."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—"Mr. President, Sir, with regard to some of the criticisms that have been levelled against the departments in my charge, I should like to give a brief reply. My hon. Friend from Coimbatore, Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar, said that the extent that was expected to be transferred to the management of the forest panchayats was about three-fourths of the reserve forests. From that, he came to the conclusion that there should be a great deal of reduction in the expenditure of the Forest department. I find from the records that only about 2,800 square miles of forest reserves out of 19,000 square miles are to be transferred to the panchayats. It is only about 15 per cent of the present area that is to be transferred and not 75 per cent. I also find from the statement supplied to the Government by the Chief Conservator of Forests that when the area is handed over to the management of the forest panchayats we are going to save about one lakh of rupees or so. We hope to be able to transfer a great deal of the forest area to the management of the forest panchayats during the course of this year. We have already abolished certain Forest ranges on account of the fact that forest panchayats have already come into existence in certain divisions. We have abolished Forest ranges of the Kistna division, Chingleput division, Bellary Forest division and the Kundapuram range. We hope to abolish about four more Forest ranges. From the papers I find that we have saved a sum of Rs. 1,620 by the abolition of the Kundapuram range and a sum of Rs. 5,172 by the abolition of the Adoni division. Altogether a sum of Rs. 13,000 has already been saved and in the course of the year when the forest panchayat system is extended I hope there will be a substantial reduction."

[Mr. Muhammad Usman Sahib]

[6th March 1926]

"My hon. Friend from Coimbatore also said that the income from the department was almost equal to the expenditure on the department. There are certain reasons why this is so. In the first place, we were not able to realize from sandalwood at Kollegal as much money as we thought we would be able to realize on account of the spike disease. Further, we have included in this year's budget a sum of Rs. 85,000 that was sanctioned last year by the Legislative Council for saw-mills to be established at South Kanara, Wynad and at Mount Stuart. It will take some time before we can expect anything from these investments. It is only two and a half years ago that exploitation schemes were undertaken by the Chief Forest Engineer, Mr. Martin.

"The question of green manure was brought to the notice of the House and it was said that it must be sold at the rate of six annas a cart-load. In February 1925 the House passed a resolution that there should be a reduction in the rate at which green manure is supplied and, after the resolution was passed, the Government have called upon the Chief Conservator of Forests and the Director of Agriculture to submit a report on this question. The House further wanted that we should consult local opinion. In accordance with the wish of the House, the Chief Conservator of Forests has been asked to consult local opinion before submitting a joint report. The Government is awaiting that report and when it is received I shall bestow my earnest attention upon it.

"Another question raised during the course of the discussion was 'why rangers are not appointed as panchayat officers'. It has been ascertained that in the best interests of forest management it is better that the forest panchayats should have very little to do with forest officers. This question was discussed at a meeting of the Forest Advisory Committee and at Collectors' Conference also. Both these bodies have come to the conclusion that it is better that the forest panchayat system is in charge of the Revenue Department under deputy collectors. In accordance with the decision, the Government have appointed deputy collectors as forest panchayat officers.

"Another charge that has been levelled against the Forest Department is that it offers no scope for promotion for those who entered the department. I have examined the question and I find that the superior services of the department are on a time-scale basis. Therefore no such complaint can be made against the department. But there is some ground for complaint with regard to the way in which recruitments are made for the posts of rangers. I find that some kind of preference is given to those who have got higher educational qualifications, and the question is before the Government as to what they should do to see that there is no hardship.

"One hon. Member said that we have six extra Assistant Conservators and no duty has been allotted for them. I find from the records there are six supernumerary extra Assistant Conservators owing to over-recruitment in the year 1921. The Government have stopped recruitment ever since and these people are being absorbed into the permanent staff of the Forest Department. As I have already pointed out, this year there has been no increase in the number of exploitation officers. I think it was my hon. Friend from Coimbatore who said that exploitation officers are continuing to increase. The hon. Member will find from the budget that this is not so.

6th March 1926]

[Mr. Muhammad Usman Sahib]

"Another criticism that was levelled is that there has been no reduction in the stamp duty. I think it was my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar who said that the time has come when we should make a reduction in our stamp duty. The Stamp Amendment Act was passed in the year 1922 as a fiscal measure in order to augment the revenues of our province; and I do not think we can go back to our former rates on account of the fact that we have not got a balanced budget. Our budget is a deficit budget. Further, there are incessant demands from various departments of the Government for increased grants.

"There has been a certain amount of criticism with regard to the administration of the Criminal Tribes Act. My hon. Friends, Mr. Rameswara Rao and Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, spoke vehemently about it. Hon. Members will find that the policy in regard to the registration of criminal tribes is given in the answer given yesterday to the question of my hon. Friend from Anantapur—

'Proposals for registration under the Criminal Tribes Act are not submitted to Government in respect of persons individually. Proposals are submitted in respect of a tribe and the tribe is notified as a criminal tribe if the Government are satisfied that the members are addicted to the systematic commission of non-bailable offences. When they issue a notification, the Government at the same time direct the District Magistrate to make, or cease to be made, a register of the members of the tribe within the limits of his jurisdiction. The District Magistrate has power to exempt any member of the tribe from registration. The selection of members of the tribe for registration is a matter within the discretion of the District Magistrate and reasons for their registration are not furnished by him to Government.'

"Therefore, Sir, if any hon. Member thinks that there is any miscarriage of justice anywhere and if my notice is drawn to it, I am prepared to look into the case and see what I can do in the matter.

"Another charge levelled on this matter by the hon. Member for Chingleput is that no civilized Government would permit persons to go and report to the police station twice a day. So far as I am aware, I do not think there is any such rule. We should also remember that a civilized Government have to protect all peaceful people. The Government have also a duty to see that crimes are not committed upon the public; they are responsible for the preservation of peace also. But after the remarks made by the hon. Member from Chingleput, I have asked the Chief Secretary to call for a report and when I get that report I shall see what I can do. I may say for the information of this House that Government are fully aware of the defects in the working of these rules and that they are trying to have them amended very soon. I hope, with the assistance of my hon. Colleague, the Law Member, the rules relating to the Criminal Tribes Act will undergo an examination and the various suggestions made by hon. Members of this House will receive due consideration."

4-15
p.m.

MR. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"There are no rules passed by the Government, but they are departmental orders of the Collector."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, with regard to the Yanadis, their case has been brought before this House by my hon. Friend from Chingleput and I have called for a report so that when the report comes I shall have an opportunity of looking into the question.

[Mr. Muhammad Usman Sahib]

[6th March 1926]

“My hon. Friend for the City of Madras Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar said that the bad sanitary condition of the cheris in Madras is due to the fact that Government have been neglecting their cheris. I should like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that we have not been unmindful of our duty in the matter. In the year 1924 we appointed a district labour officer, one of whose duties is to attend to the sanitary condition of these cheris, and in that year a sum of Rs. 18,000 was provided in the budget and a greater portion of this sum was spent in improving the sanitary condition of these cheris. In the current year we have spent a sum of Rs. 7,000 and for the next year we have provided a sum of Rs. 15,000. So I can assure my hon. Friend that Government have not been unmindful in the matter.”

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR:—“What has been done is a particle in the ocean.”

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“With regard to jail administration, my hon. Friend Mr. Veerian raised the question of the depressed class people being asked to do scavenging work and asked why the system prevalent in the Alipuram jail should not be extended to other jails also. When I went to Bellary some four or five months ago, I went into the question of incinerators, but it was found that this was absolutely impossible to be introduced in other jails on account of the fact that Alipuram jail was once barracks for British soldiers. Here the prisoners are made to live in various blocks and each block is provided with an incinerator where each prisoner should go and throw his night soil. Such a system would not work in our ordinary jails. The only system that we can think of is the flush-out system and for that we require a large sum of money and there is the further difficulty of water-supply also. I understand from the Inspector-General of Prisons that only those members of the community who are accustomed to do scavenging work are asked to do this work in jails.

“Mr. Abbas Ali has raised the question of the belchains. I may say that it was in the month of August that I came before this House with a supplementary demand for a sum of Rs. 80,000 for abolishing the belchain system and I think it is being abolished and before long I hope that system will be completely abolished in the Alipuram jail.

“My hon. Friend also raised the question of giving moral instructions to prisoners. In this connexion I may say that when the Inspectors-General of Prisons came to Madras about three months ago, they clearly told us that the Madras jails were the most progressive jails throughout the whole of India, and that they were the ideal jails. In the Madras jails we have always been keeping up certain ideals before us. It has been considered at the present moment that jails are not places of punishment but are reformatories. A prisoner is given there some kind of moral instruction, he is made to learn the three R's and he is also made to learn some kind of industry or other so that when he goes out of the prison, he is sure of earning his livelihood. Sir, these three ideals we have been keeping before us in our Jail administration.

“Sir, we find it very difficult in the mufassal places to get honorary workers as lecturers in our jails. If hon. Members of this Council and public bodies will co-operate with us in giving us assistance for providing honorary

6th March 1926]

[Mr. Muhammad Usman Sahib]

lecturers and also induce those men who are fit to do this kind of work to take up such work, Government will provide all kinds of assistance they can. Government believe that they should give the prisoners some kind of moral instruction, but their great difficulty is to find people who will be able to do this kind of work.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Veerian, has stated that we have not been doing sufficiently for the spreading of the activities of the Labour department. I can assure this House that my hon. Friend the Finance Member whose sympathies towards the depressed classes are well known and myself have been considering this question for some time and we thought that this year we could successfully extend the activities of this department only to two districts. Every one must remember that the Commissioner of Labour has got a good deal to do and if we want things to be done efficiently and thoroughly we shall be able to extend the activities of the Labour department only slowly. There is no use of wasting money by extending the activities of the department to various districts without proper supervision or without efficient management.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Raja, said that a special committee should be appointed to go into the question of what best may be done in order to uplift the depressed classes. I can remind him that only the other day he was nominated as a member of the Depressed Classes Advisory Committee and that Committee can do all that he contemplates. If that Committee only tell me what they want and if their request is reasonable, I shall be most happy to comply with it.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Kesava Pillai, wanted that I should inquire into the question of getting some information about those who go to Assam. I find that that information is generally published in the papers and is also to be found in the report of the Assam Labour Board and whenever we find that there are certain persons whose whereabouts we are not in a position to trace, we address the Labour Board of Assam and they supply us with such information as we want.

"In conclusion I promise the House that if specific instances are brought to my notice I shall enquire into them and see that whatever is possible is done in the matter. I may also assure hon. Members that the criticisms which they have offered on the present occasion will be borne in mind."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—"I am sure the House does not expect from me a long speech and that it is anxious to pass on to the much more eloquent speakers who will follow me. I shall therefore endeavour to be as brief as possible. The branches of administration on which I am on this occasion to answer for the Government begin with the subject of General Administration. Here at the outset I am rather diffident of saying much because the main criticism which was levelled against Government by members—I am not sure whether this criticism emanated from the other side alone or perhaps from both sides of the House—was with reference to the general futility of the Reformed Constitution. On that subject I do not feel that it would be useful for me to dilate at any length. I do not agree however that these budget discussions are devoid of any usefulness. It has been stated that these general discussions on the budget are of very little use and may be done away with. I venture to dissent

[Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks]

[6th March 1926]

from that because I think it is a very reasonable thing that all members of the House should have an opportunity of generally stating those aspects of the administration which in their opinion are susceptible of improvement. Government, though they may not be able to act on the views and suggestions of hon. Members of this House, assure the House that they treat them with the greatest respect and consideration and they often receive very much more examination than hon. Members give us credit for.

"Coming now to a more specific subject, we have the usual complaint regarding want of communal representation. Several members urged that their particular community is not represented in the Government service as it ought to be. This is a very difficult subject and we have at the instance of the House appointed a Committee which is examining the whole matter and no doubt they will, in time, make their report. I may tell however at once those who urge the recognition of their communities in the public service that it is quite impossible for the Government to arrange that every community, every caste and every sect shall be found some post or other in Government service. Without desiring in any way to embarrass the Committee in the writing of their report, I think I may say that it is very difficult for the Government to do work than to endeavour to secure that all persons are given equal opportunities of getting into public service and that no one community is allowed to monopolise appointments.

"In regard to higher appointments in regard to which demands are made that they should be filled in accordance with communal claims, I would ask the House to consider the justice of the claims of officers who are in Government service. We cannot pass over officers of long and proved service merely because they belong to a particular caste or community.

"The next general subject referred to is that of retrenchment. We are generally advised that in making retrenchments we should begin from the top and not from the bottom. That no doubt is theoretically a good rule but unfortunately if anybody will take up pencil and paper and work out the figures, he will find that retrenchment from the top does not effect as much saving as it does from the bottom. It is on account of the large number of subordinate appointments that the greatest expenditure is being incurred. I do not mean to suggest that subordinates are excessively paid or that they are excessive in number, but I would ask those who advocate immediate improvement in the salaries of subordinate officers to remember that an increase in the salaries of the subordinate staff involves the expenditure of a very large sum of money and that these subordinates have in recent years received increases in their salaries that are proportionately greater than those in any other branch of the public service. In the lowest ranks the increase was as much as 75 per cent.

"Another form of retrenchment that was suggested was a reduction of the units of administration, a reduction in the number of districts and taluks. This form of retrenchment I find has been pretty thoroughly explored in the last few years; every district was put under examination and proposals were made for either amalgamating it with the adjoining district or for reducing the number of divisions in it or reducing the number of taluks. In a few cases we were able to carry out some reduction. But in most we found considerable local opposition to any amalgamation of the kind. At present there is, I think, only one scheme pending and that relates to the

6th March 1926]

[Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks]

Cuddapah district. The local representatives have however strongly opposed any reduction. The gentleman who suggested this kind of retrenchment comes from South Kanara and I find that in that district the proposal for a reduction in the number of taluks was gone into in consultation with the local officers and the local people three years ago and it was decided that there was no justification for abolishing any taluk. I do not know if the hon. Member from South Kanara has any new information or fresh grounds or new reasons for urging that the decision arrived at then was a mistake. Possibly he has not and anyway other members from that district apparently do not agree with him as they did not refer to the subject.

"Passing to the Revenue subjects that were referred to in the course of the speeches made, the most important reference was to the Land Revenue Bill. On that point I am sorry that we are not in a position to give the House any detailed information. The House is well aware of our limitations both as to our powers and as to the extent to which we can divulge the contents of correspondence with the Government of India. We are however in correspondence with them and I hope in a few days we shall be able to inform the House more fully as to the present state of the matter.

"One hon. Member referred, so far as I could understand him, to the fact that no budget provision had been made for remissions. I do not know what figures he referred to, but I may assure him that the budget conceals no sinister purpose as regards remissions which are regulated by rules which are made on that subject and the amount that is provided or not provided in the budget has nothing to do with the extent to which they are granted or refused.

"I am greatly indebted to my hon. Friend from Bellary for his good advice regarding the unwisdom of postponing or suspending collections. I am largely inclined to think with him to a considerable extent but I hope in translating his advice into action I will not run the risk of being blamed by him in future for hardheartedness.

"Another hon. Member remarked that there was no reduction under Survey and Settlement. Here again I am not sure what figures he was referring to. As a result largely of the criticisms of this House at the last budget time we examined the whole subject of procedure at settlement and issued certain instructions with the object of simplifying it with the result that nearly one lakh of rupees is saved under that head in the coming year. As regards survey we have not yet reduced the number of parties because there are certain areas that have to be resurveyed and I hope we have now seen the end of the districts of which re-survey will be necessary and we shall henceforth steadily reduce the number of parties till we get down to what shall be considered the nucleus which will be permanently necessary.

"Yet another criticism was that there was no provision for the restoration of village officers. The figures of the budget of course proceed on the present year's establishment. But as hon. Members were informed before the Village Officers Restoration Bill was passed, the condition was that the total cost will not be exceeded. So long as the money is within the budget, there is no entry necessary in the budget for the purpose for it can be reappropriated to the revised numbers and the revised salaries of the village officers."

[6th March 1926]

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" I wish to know whether the amount budgeted for will be sufficient to pay them at the old rate ; if not may I know at what rate."

* The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Hon. Members are perfectly well aware that if we pay a lot of more people, so as not to exceed the total amount, we must pay them less. It follows as a matter of arithmetic."

* Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" How much will it work up to ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not think I can go into the matter now. That was all stated during the discussion of the Bill. In any case the pledge to work up to the full amount was given and if unfortunately on an examination of the budget more critically it is found to fall short in any way we shall move the House for an additional grant. As far as I am aware, the full amount has been provided.

" There was another criticism in regard to the old and the new surveys. I must ask the House to forgive me if I do not enter into a detailed explanation of the case. It is very technical and I do not think I can satisfactorily explain it without diagrams or a blackboard or some such apparatus. I however assure the House that the Government have examined the matter and think that the present rules may possibly be applied in too meticulous a manner and the question of revising them so as to make the procedure simpler and to confine the interference of resurvey to more important cases is now being investigated.

" Next, in regard to Minor Irrigation, I am glad that the House is pleased that a larger provision has been made. But one hon. Member raised the question whether the pay of the establishment should not be raised and their strength increased. So long as the establishment is employed on the present scale of expenditure it is considered that no strengthening or increase in number would be justified. Of course if we are going to be able successfully to spend every year a larger amount than that we do now the question of strengthening the staff will no doubt arise and will be gone into.

" The only other matter of general interest which I can recollect is the question of the Agency Additional District and Sessions Judge. The question how best to provide for judicial work in the three agencies is being considered. We realise the advantage of having a court to deal with the cases but we are not satisfied at present that the statistics will justify the creation of a permanent appointment of this nature. We want more definite information on the point and no decision has as yet been come to.

" The hon. Member from Madura referred to the question of the deputy collectors. I am not quite able to follow the hon. Member. His assumption that these officers were at any time under the special orders of the Revenue Secretary is mistaken. There has been no change in the authority exercising control over these officers. It is the Government that appoints them, that transfers them, and the Board of Revenue has always had departmental control over them as over other divisional officers and Collectors. What is done now is, as has been explained in answer to a question put in this House, that the Board now reports the occurrence of vacancies and gets the orders of Government as to how they should be filled."

6th March 1926]

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I for one do not share the feeling that was expressed by more than one hon. Member of this House that discussions at this stage are futile. I regard this occasion as one in which the general policy pursued by the various departments of Government is criticised and the Members or Ministers in charge of the departments have on this occasion the best opportunity of defending their policy or advancing their ideas as to further lines of policy laid down or contemplated. From that point of view therefore I have welcomed the criticism that has been very impartially administered to the departments over which myself and my hon. Colleagues have varying degrees of control. But I for one cannot appreciate the criticisms of a mere ex-cathedra nature like those which emanated from one hon. Member yesterday who after referring to the alleged circumstance which by the way was not a fact that the Reserved departments had for some mysterious reason escaped censure and comment proceeded in the fashion adopted in Leviticus to make me a kind of scapegoat. Readers of the Old Testament will remember that on a particular day, the day of atonement, a goat was sacrificed and the sins of all the people were laid on him. Apparently my position is that of the subject of the sacrifice.

" I for one rejoice that by reason of the particular procedure adopted by that hon. Member, my hon. Colleagues to the right of me escape criticism which might under other conditions or other circumstances have been deserved by and administered to them (Laughter). Varying the imagery somewhat, in certain schools primitively conducted there is what is called the whipping boy. If anyone goes wrong there is one boy who is whipped. I for one am particularly pleased to occupy that position and take that responsibility. But what I do not appreciate is criticism of this kind : 'The hydro-electric scheme! the less said about it, the better.' That was the sum total of the criticism that emanated from an honourable and responsible Member of this House. I propose to deal with that matter, only premising that that particular Member during his visits to Ootacamund, if he had consulted persons resident in the Nilgiris like Mr. J. A. Davis or Dr. Nedungadi, might have ascertained what the people of the Nilgiris think of that scheme. Let me adumbrate that scheme at the risk of taking up a little more of your time than I had intended to do. Originally the idea of the Government was that the sources of hydro-electric power should be given over for exploitation to private enterprise, to be developed by private concessionaires. Agreeably to the opinion which has latterly prevailed and which, I am glad to say, this House shares, the Government have now come to the conclusion that they should take the responsibility for and control over the development of the great water power resources of this Presidency. Mind this, Mr. President. The Government do not propose to market the power that is to be conserved and generated. For marketing, the organisation will be left in private hands, and here I may say that in this department we do not propose to swerve by a hair's breadth from the ideal laid down by Sir Alexander Macdougall and Mr. Wood, namely, that the Government ought not and in equity should not compete with private enterprise in regard to these matters. But in the initiation of a scheme which involves the expenditure of two to three crores of rupees which also contemplates the linking up of that source of water power with other sources of power, the total outlay coming to about 20 to 30 crores of rupees in course of time, it appeared to the Madras Government that perhaps the best plan

4-45
p.m.

[Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

[6th March 1926]

was that the Government should initiate the enterprise and that the great public utility of electricity which is now readily appreciated at its proper value should become a State-controlled enterprise. It is from that point of view that a beginning had been made with the Pykara scheme. It is with that object that the concession granted to a concessionaire has been resumed and purchased by the Government. It is with that object that the Government are now conducting a negotiation with the South Indian Railway Company which is now evincing a determination to electrify the South Indian Railway line from Trichinopoly to Madura and to use electric power for fast suburban service. Now, so far as this Pykara scheme is concerned, we have got these advantages. We have got the power easily available. That power can be supplied to Ootacamund, Wellington, Coonoor and to the Cordite Factory. It can be supplied to the mills at Coimbatore and Tiruppur, and it can go even up to Madras."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Can it come to us, Sir?"

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"It can, if linked with other sources of power. It can be utilized for the purpose of electrifying portions, at all events, of the South Indian Railway."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER:—"May I know whether it will be given for agricultural purposes?"

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Now, it is from that point of view and, realizing that this source of water power is perhaps the most advantageously situated from every aspect as an object-lesson and a demonstration, that the Government have embarked on this scheme. And I am glad to say that, save for one dissenting voice, this House as a whole has approved of and agreed to the ideas underlying this scheme, and when we go before this House for a vote with reference to the other aspects of this matter, I am sure we shall receive constructive criticism from the Members of the House which the Government will always respect, as it does respect constructive criticism. Now with regard to the scheme itself, two or three suggestions have been made with which I shall very briefly deal. Mr. Gopal Menon very rightly points out the possibility of using electricity for aluminium manufacture and of the utilization of electric power in regard to soap manufacture. These are matters which have not till now attracted the attention of the Government, but I may say that they are not foreign to the objects which the Government have in view, and those suggestions will be borne in mind. Mr. Vellingiri Gounder, the hon. Member from Coimbatore, after welcoming the scheme, suggested that the power should be applied to farming purposes and well irrigation. One of the objects by which the Government is animated in regard to this question of the utilization of the water-power inherent in these waterfalls is to stimulate well irrigation and cottage industries. That is a matter which the Government has very much at heart. (Hear, hear.) The other hon. Member from Coimbatore, Mr. Venkatarama Ayyangar advocated the training of Indians in the matter of hydro-electric enterprise. Now, Sir, I may at once say this, that certainly, I shall try to advance that object as far as in me lies. The object of the Government is to get the best expert possible to start it on the right lines, and make that expert train as many Indians as possible. That was

6th March 1926]

[Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

the way in which Japan started the great public utility enterprises, and that is the example which it has set for industrial progress, and it will not be forgotten.

"Now, I next deal with irrigation schemes, and in that connexion, let me at once refer to a reproach levelled at me for having paid too exclusive an advertance to the Mettur scheme. It was suggested that having budgeted for one crore of rupees for the Mettur scheme I had been wholly oblivious of the claims of the existing projects and the existing facilities for irrigation, that owing to a kind of megalomania I had concentrated upon some far-off idea and did not care about the irrigation works already started or in progress. Let me for the information of the House give a certain number of specific figures. Under budget head XIII-A—Extensions and Improvements, last year $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs were budgeted for under productive works, and this year we have budgeted for 7 lakhs. Unproductive expenditure budgeted for last year was Rs. 25,000, and this year it is Rs. 95,000. Under maintenance and repairs (productive) we budgeted for 20 lakhs last year, and $24\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs this year; for unproductive expenditure under the same head, we budgeted for 2 lakhs last year, and this year $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. Under works financed from ordinary revenues, we budgeted for 1.09 lakhs last year, and 1.37 lakhs this year. In the scheme of original works we have included the Polavaram scheme, 3 lakhs; Ellore and Bandar locks, 2 lakhs; Basavanna channel, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs; Vadavar improvements, $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs; Ayyavayyanar, 1 lakh; Vennar bed regulator, 1 lakh; Kilikudu, 2 lakhs; and Kattalai, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. Now, Sir, a recital of these schemes must convince hon. Members of this House that the attention of the Government has not been concentrated upon one favoured spot. The hon. Member from Tinnevely, I think, it was who referred to the favoured treatment of one district, or one portion of a district to the exclusion of the others. These districts I have enumerated cover almost the whole range of the Presidency. As to the Ceded districts I shall have something to say presently. Now, about Mettur, the hon. Member from Coimbatore referred to a change of site. With reference to that what I want to say is this. It has been put to us that geologically it might be better to change it by a mile or two so that we might eventually spend less money. We have not arrived at any conclusion on the question. The geological examination will further proceed and if we find that the deposits of rock at the other place suggested are such that it is better and more economical, we shall embark upon a change. But no such change will be embarked upon unless the necessity for such a change is absolutely and conclusively proved."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"As a matter of personal explanation, may I say that I also wanted in that connexion to know whether the house-sites and other places purchased are to be given up to the owners?"

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"In regard to these personal explanations, may I say that merely prefacing a number of remarks with the words 'personal explanation' does not bring them within the range of personal explanation." (Laughter.)

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Now, Sir, as to these acquisitions, let me say what the policy of the Government is. The policy of the Government is to acquire lands at least a year before they are required so

[Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

[6th March 1926]

that there might be time for those people whose lands, houses or buildings are acquired to shift to other places and make other arrangements. My hon. Friend from Coimbatore suggested two years. We considered that that period was too long and therefore we fixed it at one year. Also I may say that, notwithstanding acquisition, the orders of the Government are that no person is to be disturbed from his holding, is to be asked to go away, unless and until his land is required for the purpose of starting the head works or executing any other schemes. These are the principles underlying acquisition with regard to the Mettur project.

"Now, Sir, various hon. Members have complained that their particular districts have not got their irrigation schemes advanced. I grant that almost every district has got a big headway to make in the matter of irrigation. Whichever other Reserved subject may be called nation-building or whichever may not be, I do not think it can be gainsaid that irrigation is in every sense a nation-building department from the point of view of an agricultural country like ours. In almost every district there are large schemes waiting for initiation or extension or improvement, and nobody is more alive to that fact than the Government. But as a matter of fact, if I give a list of the projects referred to by my hon. Friends Messrs. Peddiraju, Ramachandra Reddi, Sitarama Reddi, Arpudawami Udaiyar, Ohavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai, Bhanoji Rao, Khalif-ul-lah Sahib, Ramaswami Mudaliyar and others, I should have probably given 50 to 60 schemes. But we have not got enough money for all of them. I wish we had. But all that I can say is that in the order of their urgency attempts will be made to tackle all those schemes.

"I shall now deal with Ceded districts projects. It was stated, and I think, in an impassioned and vehement tone by an hon. Member from the Ceded districts that whereas Government is anxious to further the interests of very rich and fertile tracts like Tanjore and Trichinopoly, they do not pay much attention to the Ceded districts. Now, Sir, I wish to repel that charge. The difficulty as to Ceded districts has been as hon. Members coming from those districts know, that small schemes are not of much use. It may be that here and there, there are isolated small schemes, such as the one referred to by my hon. Friend Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, that may be useful. But the history of irrigation projects in the Ceded districts, if it teaches anything, it teaches us this: that taking up sporadically isolated projects in a country where the rainfall is scanty is bound to result in failure. In fact 60 to 70 per cent of the schemes which have been started in the Ceded districts have resulted in failure. And why? Because for some reason or other the only and obvious solution had not been attempted, namely, to bring water into those districts from a place which has and which can command, a perennial source of water such as Tungabhadra or Kistna."

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"When I referred to the particular scheme, Sir, I adverted to taking up water from a perennial river, namely, the Hagari."

* The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"I think my hon. Friend will confess, none more readily than he, that there are not many perennial rivers in the Ceded districts, and all that I have been saying is that in the Ceded districts this difficulty is very important and another important difficulty is the scantiness of the rainfall and the nature of the soil; and the second factor especially has been very powerful in making the Government reluctant

6th March 1926]

[Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

to start on a scheme whose success is doubtful. Not only this, but the Government cannot fail to realize that the schemes which they have started have absolutely failed. I think hon. Members from the Ceded districts know that there are schemes upon schemes which have been started and where the reservoirs that have been designed are now bare and empty and, as somebody remarked, grain can be poured into these reservoirs. It is in order to arrange for the bringing of water from outside from a perennial source that the Government sought the advice and assistance of the Ceded Districts Irrigation Advisory Committee. Their preliminary report has come to us, and that preliminary report confirms the idea of the Government, and the Committee which is representative of all the concerned districts are wholly in favour of starting a really big work like the Tungabhadra or Kistna project, bringing water from outside to fertilise the tracts in the Ceded districts. That is a very big matter. The Government, however, will not omit consideration of it or fail to bear that in mind. Now, Sir, the hon. Member representing the City of Madras referred to the Coom. We who have to live a long time in these buildings—6 or 7 hours a day—know that the Coom is capable of improvement and that its odour is penetrating. But when he attacks the Government for having spoilt the Coom by leading the Penitentiary and the General Hospital sewage into it, as a person that ought to know better, if I may venture on that expression, he forgot or omitted to observe the sewage of Chintadripet.” 5 p.m.

MR. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTIYAR :—“I admitted.”

*The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“And that is not a very small factor in the sum total of the stink. Now, Sir, with regard to the Coom, Government is prepared to start dredging operations. But they expect, and in this I make an appeal to the hon. Member for the City that they legitimately expect, the Corporation to share the cost. I trust that the negotiations between the Corporation and the Government will end more fruitfully now than the negotiations in the past. I trust the powerful advocacy which was utilized yesterday by the hon. Member for the City of Madras will be utilized in his own Corporation chambers for the purpose of pointing out that, if some money is paid by the Corporation, Government will lend its helping hand in getting the Coom cleared of its stink and its sewage.

“Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar referred to the Buckingham canal and suggested that, if necessary, dredgers might be used to make the waterway effective. Rupees 2½ lakhs has been allotted to the Buckingham canal and it is not possible to do more because it now carries much less traffic every day than before. Hon. Members will realize that there is no use in trying to retrace our step.

“Now, Sir, with your permission let me deal with the criticism which emanated from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. He protested against the expenditure on Mettur and in this he was also helped by the powerful voice of the hon. Member for Chingleput who raised the same protest. My hon. Friend from Malabar—I do not see him here now—wanted to know the mystery which enveloped the possibility of going on with the Mettur project when the Irrigation Bill was not passed. Let me narrate the history briefly. The scheme of that project of legislation is that the present rights of Government in the matter of raising revenue by means of water-rate

[Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar] [6th March 1926]

remain unaffected until after the passing of the projected legislation into law and thereafter as long as no change is made in the present rates. When any revision or reconsideration of the existing rates becomes necessary, the Council will deal with the subject on the introduction of a Taxation Bill. This House was consulted on this matter of Mettur on the 18th August 1924. I think the House will remember that the resolution passed by this House unanimously was that this Council approves of the proposal to construct a reservoir on the river Cauvery at Mettur in the Coimbatore district, with the necessary channels and other works, to improve the supply to existing irrigation under the river and to provide for new irrigation over an approximate area of 301,000 acres, at an estimated cost of Rs. 612 lakhs. Amongst the papers laid on the table of the House for the purpose, and during the course of discussion on that resolution were the financial estimates which proceeded on the basis of the levy of water-rates of Rs. 15 and Rs. 7-8-0 for first and second crop respectively. The Board of Revenue has expressed its views on the matter and we do not propose to go back. As a matter of fact, in the new tract, hon. Members living in that quarter know that the people are only too anxious to avail themselves of water, that Pattukottai is a fertile tract which requires and deserves irrigation facilities and people are willing to pay for the water and that the alternative is perfectly clear that if they will not pay then the distributory channels can be remodelled. We do not yet apprehend any difficulty about that matter and it is because of the lack of any such apprehension that we have proceeded with the work. Now I cannot deal with that subject more fully and I will go on to the other subjects.

“My hon. Friend from Malabar and certain other hon. Members attacked me for the supineness of the Government with respect to the separation of the judicial and executive functions. If they had remembered the discussion in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council, if they had followed the statements made by the Government of India in the Legislative Assembly and if they had scrutinized the questions put in the House of Commons, Sir, they would have realized that it is not a matter with which the Madras Government has much to do at this stage. Our proposals have gone up to the Government of India and the Secretary of State is in touch with the Government of India. Surely it is unreasonable to blame this Government particularly with regard to a matter which is all-India in character and the result or decision of which depends much more on the Right hon. the Secretary of State than upon this Government—not only much more, but almost exclusively upon them rather than upon us.

“Then Mr. Ramalinga Chettiyar remarked that we were making the judicial administration a source of revenue. As that debate has arisen quite often and that statement has been made more than once, I have got certain figures prepared on this question. This is the position: the receipt in budget estimates of Law and Justice were 1,57,88,400; establishment charges 98,70,400, district administration 58,23,690, judicial stamps 1,70,700; charges under pension 9,44,700; charges under stationery and printing 2,50,000; supervision by Government and Secretariat 75,000; total is 1,71,34,490; so that it works at a deficit of about 16 lakhs and not at a surplus. There it cannot be said that we are making out of Law and Justice any profit. Now, Sir, another hon. Member referred to the Civil Courts Act

6th March 1926]

[Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

and wanted to know what had been done with it. I may say that as a result of the passing of that Act the retrenchment that will be effected on account of the temporary district munsif and subordinate judges is Rs. 44,540. It therefore shows that the Civil Courts Act is a powerful instrument of retrenchment as was originally contemplated.

"My hon. Friend from Nellore, Mr. Krishna Rao, wanted to know why the report of the Estates Land Act Committee was not ready. He would realize, none more than he, the many varied interests that have to be reconciled in order to elucidate the question and to evolve a new law and I am sure he will not blame the Government when they take all the time that is needed in order to effect a reconciliation of those interests.

"Now, two other questions were raised, viz., the Official Referee and the temporary judges. As to the Official Referee all that I can say is that this hon. House dealt with this question in December 1924 when all the aspects of it were put before the House. I may only quote what the hon. Member Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar said in finally voting for the grant.

"He said :

'Well, Sir, we shall realize that on such peculiar matters which are so peculiarly within the jurisdiction of the High Court, the opinion of the hon. Judges should weigh with us in this House. And therefore when the judges have considered the case made out by this Legislative Council and have come to the conclusion that this office should be retained, I do not think that it would be fair to the hon. Judges themselves that this House should vote against this motion.'

"On the 18th December 1924 this House voted in favour of this motion. Hon. Judges have taken action on the lines suggested by me, viz., they have reduced the fees and allowed vakil's fees to those who appeared before the Official Referee. As for the question of temporary judges I do not know whether the Members of the House contemplate with equanimity the spectacle of cases pending for two years. It is not my purpose nor have I the time to dwell on the consequences that would result by the delay. But the point is this. There are ready 542 appeals on the 1st November 1925, Second Appeals 1705, and O.S. appeals and City Civil Court Appeals about 300 not to speak of the criminal work. In addition to that, on the original side there are 788 civil suits. The Government considered that matter and came to the conclusion that until these arrears are wiped out and the reproach is obviated that justice is very tardy in the High Court we had no other alternative but to keep the strength at the present level.

"My hon. Friend from Anantapur referred to punitive police in the Cuddapah district. There is no such fear there.

"With regard to the Pondicherry incident as to which something was said let me again reiterate the proposition that this Government has not directly or indirectly instructed the French Police to pursue any such course as is now complained of. With regard to the political aspects of the matter my hon. Friend, Mr. Moir, who holds that portfolio, will later answer. But in regard to the police let me deny that charge of having instructed the French Police. I have travelled in the Continent of Europe and the restrictions imposed on travellers who have to go through certain formalities are not negligible. (Voices: 'That was war time.') All that I can say is that one need not be surprised at being held up. Moreover we are not responsible for the procedure. I only want to assure this House that we are not responsible for it and that our police had no instruction in the matter. Now

[Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar] [6th March 1926]

Sir, an observation was made as to the topheaviness of the police and the expenditure on the police. We expect in the police an ultimate retrenchment of 15 lakhs. That is not a small retrenchment. It is a retrenchment for which we, if not entitled to credit, are at least not entitled to reproach. (Voice : ' Is it in 1926-27 ? ') That is all that I have got to say.

" I thank the House for their patience."

5-15
p.m.

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" Sir, like more than one of my hon. Colleagues, I too dissent from the view that the discussion which takes place annually on our Budget is of no use. For my part, I have listened to this debate for three days with the greatest interest and my complaint is not that there is so little matter to deal with but that there is so much. But let me assure the House that I do not propose to trespass upon its patience longer than is necessary. Much of the discussion has centered round administrative issues, with which it is true I am indirectly concerned, because almost every point raises some financial issue. But having listened to the very eloquent and able exposition of their policy and their intentions which have been given by my hon. Colleagues, I propose to confine myself entirely to certain matters which more directly concern financial policy, or the method, or the doings of the Finance Department.

" Before I turn to that, however, I might dispose of the one purely administrative issue with which I am concerned in another function rather than that of Finance Member, namely, that to which my hon. Colleague referred when he mentioned the Pondicherry incident. I wish to deal with that question with as much restraint as possible. For that purpose, I think, it is perhaps necessary that some reference should be made to what has appeared in the newspapers. I have in my hand a copy of what I understand to be the statement sent to the press by the hon. Member from Coimbatore. I wish to read two short extracts from that communication. One is, ' The Deputy Commissioner took me to another room where I was asked to go through a treatment to which no human being in any civilized country would willingly submit ' Another is, ' It is a shameful humiliation to the French Government which pretends to give a safe asylum to political suspects of other nations but puts their visitors to all indignities.' Sir, the hon. Member is entitled as a Member of this House to make such accusations as he sees fit against the Government under which he lives. But these statements, Sir, are directed against the Government of a great and friendly power, and I can only suppose that in making these statements the hon. Member forgot that there is, in the case of Members of a Legislative Council of one country, a need to express themselves with some moderation and restraint when making a reference to the Government of a foreign country. I would not have referred to it, if it were not necessary for me on behalf of the Madras Government entirely to dissociate ourselves from any such reflections."

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" On a matter of personal explanation, Sir. I must say that I made those remarks with regard to the French Government because it was the French Government that treated me so badly, and I still adhere to what I said. I did not mean that the Madras Government should share with me the same opinion at all."

* The hon. Mr. T. E. MOIR :—" That is exactly why I am saying that it is necessary for me on behalf of the Madras Government entirely to dissociate ourselves from the statements and allegations which have been brought

6th March 1926]

[Mr. T. E. Moir]

against the French Government by a Member of this House. If I might offer a word of advice to the hon. Member, I would point out that after all although the territory of Pondicherry is a comparatively small area in relation to the extent of the Madras Presidency, it is still an integral part of French territory. It is subject to French laws and to the French Parliament. I would suggest to him that it is incumbent on any one who enters the territory of a foreign and friendly power to submit himself to their regulations. I am perfectly certain that the French Government have no desire in any way in pursuance of their regulations to subject any member or any subject of His Majesty's dominions to unnecessary restraint. But I will only say this: that when statements of this kind are made in the press by one who after all has a certain responsibility in these matters, it does not make the task of those who are responsible for conducting political relations with other countries in the sphere of their sovereign authority any the easier.

"Now, Sir, to return to the budget, I can only express my warm thanks to the many Members of this House who have made such kind references to the little share that I have had in its production. There were two observations which more than one Member made which I very much welcomed. One was the expression of the view that the budget attempted in no respect to conceal or modify the actual facts. That, at any rate, is one aim with which I set out. The other was, that it was reasonably clear and laud. That was also another object I had in view. But what I did appreciate very much more was that generous endorsement of the gratitude which I have expressed to the Finance Department and its Secretary, to which many Members of the House contributed. But, Sir, although hon. Members were good enough to express their satisfaction with those aspects of the budget, satisfaction, I think, in other aspects, was not quite so general, and, if occasionally I refer to individual speeches, it is more because they represent perhaps some of the general arguments or criticisms which were apparent from the speeches of other Members also.

"Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar expressed some doubt as to what I meant exactly when I said that I regretted that I had not been able to place before this Council a more attractive picture of our financial position. Well, when I referred to my speech in order to answer his question, I found that I had used a rhetorical figure of speech known as 'meiosis' and to refresh my memory as to what that figure implied, I looked up a dictionary and found that it was 'an ironically moderate form of speech'. Well, Sir, I am incapable of irony, but I admit that it was a moderate form of speech. It may be constructed either as moderate satisfaction or moderate dissatisfaction (laughter). This is so far as I am concerned, I am afraid that in the case of some Members of this House their feelings ranged from considerable dissatisfaction to a state of profound gloom and despondency. Mr. Ramalinga Chettiar delivered an attack, of which I do not complain at all, on the method in which the budget had been produced. He objected entirely to the way in which we have gone about preparing this budget. He objected to schemes being considered in advance, or to any anticipation of revenue, which might or might not be placed at our disposal. He also commented on the haphazard manner in which schemes for the budget are put forward. Now, that, at any rate, is not a charge which can justly be brought against us. Throughout the whole course of one financial year, each department is

[Mr. T. E. Moir]

[6th March 1926]

busy considering what administrative developments or extensions are demanded or required in the following year. These schemes are all subject to scrutiny by the Finance Department, with reference to ensuring that economy is strictly observed. They are scrutinized by the Finance Committee with reference not only to that consideration but also with reference to whether they are justified in view of such anticipations as can be made of the financial position. They are then placed before the Cabinet, and then finally before the Legislative Council. If they decide to include provision beyond what it is anticipated will be the actual revenues of the coming year, they consider how far they are justified in allowing administrative or other reasons to overrule considerations which are strictly financial. Now, we have gone as far as we considered we were justified in this respect, and criticism has, I think, been mainly directed to the suggestion of alternative schemes for the utilization of these resources rather than to our rashness in proposing to spend so much.

5-30
p.m.

"Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar said that some amount, unspecified, should be swallowed up by introducing a part measure of prohibition, and that another considerable sum of half a crore or so should go in reduction of court-fees and stamp duties. That of course is a possible policy, but its acceptance would mean not only that all the additional schemes on which 72 lakhs is proposed to be spent in the coming year should go by the board, but also that the existing expenditure should be curtailed. I doubt if either side of the House would really endorse the results of that policy.

"Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar stated that out of 72½ lakhs on new schemes, only 33 lakhs go to nation-building departments and asked why the whole of the 57 lakhs has not been earmarked for the development of nation-building departments. I may point that the actual correct figures are 49·70 lakhs for the Transferred departments and 22·85 lakhs for the Reserved departments. But if you turn to the expenditure under the Reserved departments you will find that of the 22·85 lakhs, 4·17 lakhs relate to irrigation—this is intended almost entirely for repairs to minor irrigation works—nearly 3½ lakhs are for the nation-building activities of the Labour department, about 2½ lakhs for education and other improvements in the Agency. Nearly 2 lakhs are required for improvements in jails, 1½ lakhs are to be utilized for forest development, and even of the small balance of less than 5 lakhs for civil works in connexion with the Reserved departments, 1·10 lakhs is earmarked for additions and alterations to the Legislative Council and Secretariat buildings, improvements the need of which had been pressed on the Government again and again by the Members of this House. Four lakhs alone are made available for the needs of large administrative departments, including the Police, a department in respect of which the programme for the housing of constables—a much needed programme—has been reduced and delayed to a most undesirable extent. Now, Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar merely fell into an arithmetical error to which several other Members of the House succumbed. But is it possible to say the same with respect to the speech of Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiyar? I would quote his pronouncement on this question of the expenditure on the Reserved and Transferred halves of the Government. 'My enthusiasm to get the remission of the provincial contributions is slowly cooling down in view of the fact that not even a small portion of this huge sum of money is devoted to or

6th March 1926]

[Mr. T. E. Moir]

spent on the nation-building departments as was originally promised.' That is a criticism of a type which I consider merits the remarks which was passed on a similar criticism of another item, by my hon. Colleague the Law Member. I have in view of that criticism attempted to get some figures which would give the Council some rough idea of what actually has happened to the increase in our revenues or in our expenditure since the year 1920-21. The total increase in expenditure is somewhat in the neighbourhood of 349 lakhs. Of that increase a sum of about 80 lakhs represent the balance of expenditure which had still to be incurred in respect of the revision of salaries. Taking figures as a whole, the actual increase in expenditure under the main Transferred departments is something between 150 and 160 lakhs. Under the main administrative departments, such as General Administration, Police, Justice, there is an increase of 71 lakhs, and under those of what may be called nation-building departments which are entrusted to the Reserved half, irrigation and the Labour department, there has been an increase of 34 lakhs, while the common charges relating to pensions, stationery and printing and various minor items make up the rest of the total. But roughly, under the main Transferred departments, as far as I can see, there has been an increase of expenditure amounting to 43 per cent of the sum spent in 1920-21, while under the main Reserved departments the increase has been only 13 per cent. I propose to have the figures further verified and more fully elaborated, but while there may be a difference of opinion as to whether the distribution is correct or the most desirable that we can have, I cannot see how it can fairly be said by the hon. Member from Madras that nothing of our increased expenditure has been devoted to the Transferred or nation-building departments.

"I would further seriously ask this Council to consider whether this fetish of the division between the Reserved and Transferred halves is not being overdone. The Government of a country is in essence one and indivisible and a transitory constitutional device ought not to be allowed to obscure that fact. Every Member of this House looks forward to the time when that essential unity shall be restored (hear, hear), and when not only the 'Transferred' subjects but also the 'Reserved' subjects shall be subject to the same measure of control by the Legislative Council of this Presidency (hear, hear). We on the 'Reserved' side are in the meanwhile responsible within certain limits for the administration of certain important departments. Our responsibility is two-fold: it is not only to the British Parliament but it is also towards those who will be the reversioners of the interests placed in our charge (laughter). Those interests are as essential to the good government of the country as are the 'Transferred' departments. We should have ill discharged our responsibility if, when we are called upon to relinquish them, those reversioners to whom I have referred should have cause to complain, that we handed over to them a revenue system which failed to produce revenue, a judicial system which inspired no confidence or failed to give prompt and unquestioned justice and a police department which was incapable of or inadequate to maintain law and order. I would remind hon. Members of the fact that even in respect of what has been termed the prosperity of the rural classes and the general advancement of certain parts of the Presidency or sections of the population, we have a considerable responsibility which we are endeavouring to discharge to the best of our ability. May I take as an example a disaster to which I referred

[Mr. T. E. Moir]

[6th March 1926]

more than once in my budget speech, the floods in Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts? Not only were irrigation works seriously damaged but bridges and communications were destroyed. In the opinion of hon. Members, which ought to have been our first concern—restoration of irrigation and protective works on which the prosperity and the livelihood of thousands of ryots depended or the reconstruction of the bridges which had gone down in the floods? To my mind, there can be only one answer, restoration of irrigation works must take precedence of bridges. If, however, the argument drawn from the division into Reserved and Transferred subjects were unduly pressed, that will be a wrong view, and what we ought to do in such cases is to devote our resources to the restoration of bridges. As a matter of fact, we propose to do both, and that we attempt to do so is one of our justifications for the large measure of expenditure to which some hon. Members have taken exception. And I may add that in doing so we have the concurrence of our hon. Colleagues the Ministers.

“One other criticism which was made during the discussion, or one idea which seems to run through the discussion was that somehow or other, within the limits of our present expenditure, we may be able to build the new Jerusalem in this province. I am entirely unable to accept that view that we may by due economy and constant watchfulness be able to make our existing revenues go further than they do, but I am perfectly certain that the younger Members of this House—we shall not see it—we will see a time when the Finance Member in this House will present a budget, not for 16 or 17 crores but for 32 or 34 crores, and even then the requirements of the Presidency will by no means have been met. I may refer just to two points which were raised by Mr. Gopala Menon. They were interesting points and of considerable importance to the Finance Department. He drew attention to the question of customs duty. He says that it is most unfair that the Central Government should by adjustment take away that item because they are giving us a remission of the provincial contributions, and it only means that the Central Government is taking away from us with one hand what they are giving with the other. Personally, I think there is some basis for Mr. Gopala Menon's criticism. All I can now say is that we have laid our protest and we are awaiting a reply. He then drew attention to a motion made in the Legislative Council of a neighbouring presidency, and on that he based the hope that we might find assistance from that source in pressing the demand for further reduction of our contributions. Personally, I am not quite so sure that the sister presidencies look at this question of the remission of the contributions from the same point of view as we do. But I can assure the hon. Member that when the time comes we shall look round and readily grasp the hand of any province which is willing to assist us in continuing our fight.

“Attention has been drawn to the fact that certain items which were hitherto being treated as ‘voted’ are now shown as ‘non-voted’. This I may briefly explain, is due to the operation of the Civil Services Act. There are some points still under reference as to exactly which items are to be ‘non-voted’ and there may be some changes to be incorporated in the final edition of the budget. But the Act is the reason for the changes noted.

“Mr. Bhanoji Rao said that he did not fully understand the principles which have been adopted in respect of loans. I do not want at this late hour to weary the House with a detailed exposition of what he quite rightly

6th March 1926]

[Mr. T. E. Moir]

termed 'the apparent changes' of opinion in this matter which have occurred in the course of the last few years. It is of course rather tempting to get into debt (laughter) and it is also rather tempting to try and conceal the fact if you can do so. Opinions necessarily vary as to the extent within which it is legitimate to show expenditure under capital heads or whether it ought properly to be shown under revenue deficit. My opinion on this matter has perhaps somewhat varied from that of my predecessors. But it seems to me that it was much better definitely to show non-assets under the revenue deficit. There is a certain amount of expenditure with reference to which whether it should appear under the revenue deficit or might legitimately be debited under capital heads is at least an open question. But I may add that from the financial point of view it makes not the slightest difference. Where the head under which we borrow money is say a building programme which is not a productive asset, whether we show it under the revenue deficit or under capital head makes no difference to our financial position whatsoever. The amount that we borrow is the same and the amount that we have to repay in the shape of principal and interest by annual instalments, is exactly the same.

"I have I think sufficiently dissociated myself from the more pessimistic views as to our financial future and prospects. I do not wish to disguise from the House that it is a question which does give me some anxiety, but we have in the past adopted a somewhat optimistic policy and personally I am prepared to stand by the proposals which are placed before the House in the budget for the coming year. I could, however, have wished that more appreciation had been shown in some quarters for what has been accomplished in the last few years.

"One hon. Member said that the position of the Finance Member was that of the sun round which revolve, I was not quite sure whether it was, a series of orderly planets or a series of erratic and explosive comets, but I am afraid I can claim no such position in our solar system. The duty of the Finance Department and of the Finance Member is to be at the service of his Colleagues. I admit that sometimes I toil after them in vain breathlessly saying, 'Gently, brother pray' (laughter). But I should like to say this: surely apart from all personal differences or all party differences, in the history of the past few years there is something in which we all may take a legitimate pride. Things have advanced. For example, opportunities of education and medical aid are, thanks to the energy and persistence of my hon. Colleagues, open to a wider circle of the population. That is something good and a gain to all parts of the Presidency and to all sections of this House. And I can only express the hope that we shall in the coming year return to that prosperity which an uneventful year of good crops and the absence of any public calamities confers. For, in that case I feel perfectly certain that when it comes to a close we shall have made still further advance, and be ready to make a still further advance no matter under whose auspices it may be conducted." (Applause.)

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The House will now adjourn and meet again on Tuesday, the 16th of this month at 11 o'clock."

The House accordingly adjourned.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.